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Peking plays a cool game in the battle for Asia

Like his predecessor Yahya Khan, President Bhutto of Pakistan has at times conveyed the impression that China would come to his country's rescue. Pakistani generals were definitely counting on direct action by the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

Yet there was not a single statement by the Chinese to back up these expectations. On the contrary, Peking has repeatedly urged Pakistani hawks to take it easy and pointed out the need for a peaceful solution.

Moscow, in contrast, reckoned on profiting directly from an Indian victory.

The Chinese were far from happy about the intensification of traditional Indo-Pakistani rivalry and the unpopular suppression of the revolt in East Pakistan.

As recently as late autumn there were signs of a thaw in frosty Indo-Chinese relations. Indira Gandhi and Chou En-lai exchanged cordial messages. Chinese foreign policy, supple and offensive at one and the same time and to an unparallelled extent, had notched up one success after another.

Peking's revolutionary strategy had long given way to a conciliatory coexistence line. Talk of people's liberation war was reserved almost exclusively for the Indo-China conflict. The Bandung approach, aimed at courting sympathy in the Third World, regained the upper hand.

In Malaysia, Burma, Iran, Ethiopia, Sudan, East Africa, Chile and Peru China has gained recognition and to a certain extent admiration.

At the UN the Chinese have got off to such an able start that their united front of forces that in the Third World are so often at loggerheads has succeeded in pushing the two superpowers America and Russia into a corner and isolating them.

Then came the war between India and Pakistan. Temporarily the Chinese had to abandon their front against the two superpowers. Siding with Pakistan China was, for a time at least, on the same side of the fence as the United States.

The Soviet Union for its part grudgingly accepted almost total isolation at the United Nations since it felt that the military success of its Indian friends would more than offset the propaganda setback and above all reveal China's weakness.

Peking, while being well aware that it has suffered a setback, has by no means lost face by not coming to Pakistan's assistance with troops. Direct military intervention would unquestionably have jeopardised the foreign policy progress made over the last couple of years.

Peking thus wanted to avoid providing an opportunity of cries of "aggressors after all!" When all is said and done it took equal care not to send in troops when its North Vietnamese allies, the links with which it claims to be like those between lips and teeth, were in the gravest of danger.

The Chinese leaders expect confrontation with their erstwhile Soviet brethren to become even more virulent. They do not, on the other hand, feel that the southern flank of Soviet encirclement, the Indian front, will last for any length of time.

The Indians and the Russians already face the prospect of most unpleasant developments. Embittered power struggles rocked Bangla Desh prior to the return of Sheikh Mujib.

The left wing of the rebel movement, the Mukti Bahini, is virulently opposed to the reformists of the Awami League. The acting President announced the government's intention of nationalising the means of production.

The massacres in liberated Bangla Desh involving so many innocent people are now to be replaced by legal proceedings against collaborators but this could well mark the beginning of endless domestic confusion.

The overall picture may be changed by the return of Sheikh Mujib but the transports of delight serve only to conceal the more serious problems.

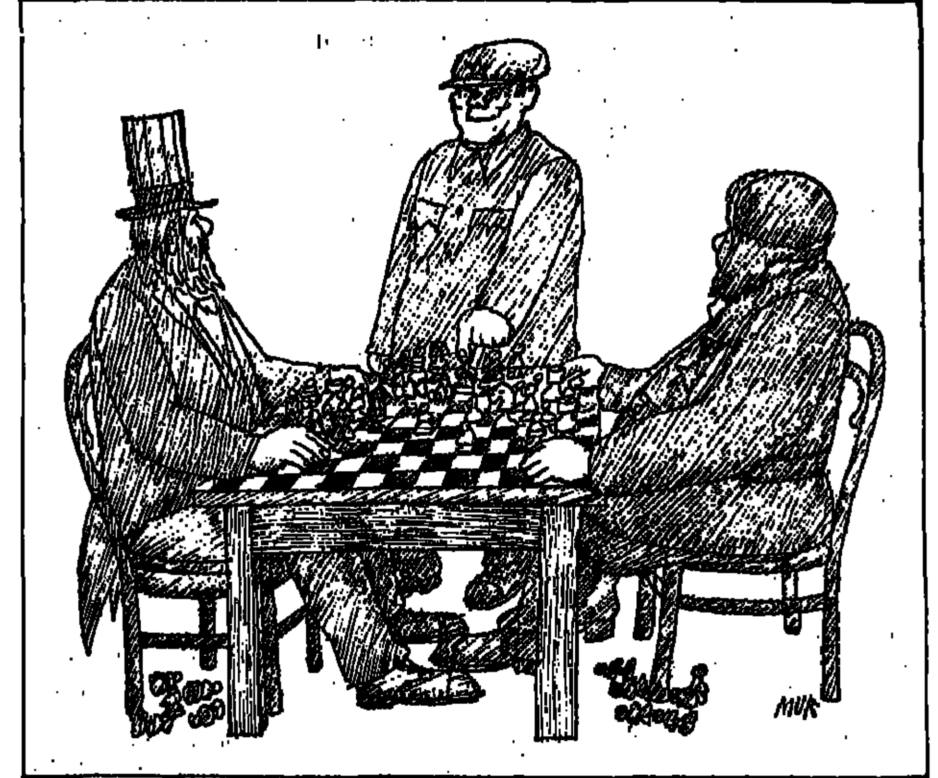
Time and time again the Chinese wonder why 49 Soviet divisions are stationed along China's northern frontier, more troops than Russia has at the ready on Warsaw Pact territory.

For this reason alone China attaches great importance to the forthcoming visit to Peking by President Nixon. For China too the national interest comes first.

Siegfried Kubink

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 10 January 1972)

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One more grand master comes on the scene

(Cartoon: Murschetz/Die Zeit)

Nixon's talks with his allies eases the path to Peking

America's allies of old have been put at ease and talks with Peking and Moscow can now go ahead unhindered. This, at least, is the view of a large section of the American general public, which has delightedly acclaimed the skilful way in which the President has of late succeeded in convincing the allies that Washington has no intention of negotiating against their interests or over their heads in Moscow or Peking.

The recent succession of talks has undoubtedly been of more symbolic than substantial value. They nonetheless represented an admission by Washington for the first time since the war that the international balance of power no longer depends solely on Moscow or the White House. Western Europe and Japan have been officially acknowledged to be equal partners.

Trouble-free though the talks with France, Canada, Britain and this country may have been, Washington has failed to solve latent problems between itself and Japan.

The statement issued following the two-day talks in San Clemente made mention of the return of Okinawa to Japan six weeks ahead of the previously agreed deadline and the installation of a scrambler telephone link between Tokyo and Washington but these are both prizes of secondary importance for Premier Sato to take home.

Mr. Nixon's visit to China, the announcement of which last summer all but led to the fall of the Tokyo government, is mentioned but briefly in the joint communiqué, Mr Sato frankly admitting that differences of opinion remained and the Americans making no comment.

America had good reasons for keeping quiet. President Nixon is taking good care to avoid any discord that might disturb his forthcoming visit to China.

Japan, having so far failed to receive cordial signs from Peking, will have to find its own way of coming to terms with its powerful neighbour.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 10 January 1972)

Sheikh Mujib returns to Dacca via London

In magnanimously releasing Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, providing him with a personal aircraft and giving him a personal send-off at the airport, President Bhutto has shown statesmanlike qualities.

To begin with Mr Bhutto has achieved two aims. At Sheikh Mujik's first public appearance after nine months under close Pakistani arrest during which his life was at stake and his people were brutally suppressed he spoke of West Pakistan and above all of President Bhutto in conciliatory terms.

Secondly, Bangla Desh may, as the Sheikh put it in London, be an inalienable reality but Mujib took with him to Dacca a plan of Bhutto's for possible ties between Pakistan and Bangla Desh.

Significantly enough the Sheikh did not immediately reject the idea out of hand.

Bangla Desh did not for that matter expect Sheikh Mujib to be released so promptly. It was feared that he would be exchanged for one group of people or another at the end of protracted bartering and all that would entail for the leaderless Bangla Desh.

On the face of it President Bhutto has refrained from so doing. It is, on the other hand, by no means out of the question that swift behind-the-scenes agreement will be reached by Bhutto and Mrs Gandhi, both of them realists.

The only remaining riddle is why the Sheikh chose to return to Dacca via London. The reasons he and Mr Bhutto stated differ. It could well be that Sheikh Mujib, a full-blooded politician, made use of the detour to gain certain concessions from his fellow-politicians in Dacca that could only be achieved by dint of a suspicion of blackmail.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 10 January 1972)

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Moscow believes that Russia's special ties with France guarantee stability

It is not possible to draw up a firm final balance for Soviet policy in 1971 because of a number of future prospects, some of which will certainly materialise.

The course and results of the Indo-Pakistani conflict might soon be looked at as the event of 1971 that helped Soviet diplomacy to prove two things: firstly, that Moscow need not necessarily fear a Chinese-American alliance and, secondly, that the Russians would accept that they are at present faced by a strong head-wind.

For a time it looked as if events were slipping out of Moscow's grasp. The unexpectedly rapid end to the armed conflict quashed the Russian calculation of presenting themselves in the role of mediator. But American ineptitude and China's inability to match its verbal support for Pakistan with action helped Moscow in its situation.

Washington and Peking rushed blindly to Pakistan's aid with resolutions on the Security Council and in the General Assembly of the United Nations but conscientiously disregarded the real situation on the Indian subcontinent.

Russia's absolutely justifiable objection that a settlement of the conflict should also include its causes did not gain a hearing in the hurly-burly of events. Russia's support in the UN General Assembly shrunk to a pitifully small number of diehards. Even the Rumanians went their own way once again.

It had been a long time since the Soviet Union had looked so completely isolated. From Moscow's point of view that must have been a bad omen for the three-sided relationship between America, China and the Soviet Union in coming months. But a little later Great Britain and France came up with a proposal that was largely in line with Moscow's objections.

America's self-induced loss in prestige is not the decisive factor here. But Moscow had the opportunity of demonstrating which of the two leading Communist countries acted truer to its principles, even when circumstances were so against it.

The two most important principles for policies in the Third World is support for national liberation movements and the warding off of all attempts to crush new nations once they have emerged. Only the Russians knew how to combine the two principles skilfully. Peking stuck instead to its pathetic statements.

Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, the new head of the Pakistan government, has so far only put out feelers by saying that he wishes to renew links with Moscow too and make use of them in the solution to the crisis.

It would be no surprise if he did. Moscow's original idea of a maximum of autonomy for East Pakistan but its continued existence within a united Pakistani State is the most favourable thing Bhutto can hope for anyway.

In the long-term however there has been an increase in Moscow's ability to present itself as an attorney of the interest of the Third World.

This is the main field of rivalry with Peking. Vietnam will be the next test. Now that the United States has again started its bombing and the situation in Laos too has worsened the Chinese will be in worse a position than ever to present President Nixon with a solution to the problem that did not meet with Hanoi's full approval. If they didm their ideological reputation would be ruined. Only Moscow can be sure of an untroubled relationship with Hanoi at present.

The sensational news that President Nixon is to visit Peking has made the world forget for the time being that there is a war in Vietnam. This will be realised once again after Nixon returns from China.

The atmosphere and result of the talks that Nixon then plans to have in Moscow will depend to a considerable extent on how the Russians assess the state of American involvement in Vietnam.

The need for rest that has typified Soviet diplomacy for some time now is otherwise disturbed only by the situation in the Middle East.

It has not escaped Moscow's attention that the basis for Arab-Soviet relations has become narrower despite the treaty of friendship with Egypt and loud statements paying lip service to it.

The common ideological and political denominators to which both sides always liked referring when Nasser was still alive have now fallen victim to the right-wing trend in nearly all Arab countries.

The strategic disarmament talks between Russia and the United States will continue, relatively unaffected by the ups and downs of everyday politics. Moscow will welcome the European Security Conference it has fought so hard for even if it does not take place until 1973.

The decisive factor for the Russians is that stability has already returned to Europe. Though they may also be interested in this in the long term in view of the shadow cast be China the most urgent factor in the foreseeable future is the need for more reliable economic co-operation with the West.

The leeway that the Russians have to make up in the technological and economic sectors must be seen as the driving motive behind Moscow's diplomacy.

Moscow believes that stability and reliability is guaranteed above all by Russia's special relationship with France and, since Brezhnev's meeting with Chancellor Brandt at Oreanda, by the policy pursued by the West German government. It paid no small price for this with the agreement over Berlin.

Uwe Engelbrecht

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 4 January 1972)

Return of old coalition probable in Finland

Now that the Finnish elections are over and the results known the question is how are things to proceed. The old coalition of Social Democrats and Agrarians with a number of small middle-class groups collapsed last autumn, as so often in post-war years, because the "red-green" government of workers and farmers was a "fire and water coalition" where differences could scarcely be greater.

Even after the special elections that have now been held in Finland, a country of four and a half million inhabitants and nine parties, no other coalition is possible than the red-green front of Social Democrats and Agrarians together with the Communists, forming a popular front Cabinet, and a number of small middle-class groups.

The Conservatives are not acceptable from the point of view of foreign policy because of Finland's large neighbour in the east even though they, like every other party in the country, have sought close friendship with the Soviet Union remembering former President Passikivi's statement that Finland could not alter her geography.

As neither the Russians nor the other Finnish parties want much to do with Vennamos' Small Landowners Party two of the eight parties represented in parliament are ruled out from the very outset.

A purely left-wing government would be restricted in its actions because of the ideological struggles within the People's Democrats and it would also be a minority Cabinet.

The coalition talks will be long and difficult. In the 54 years of its independence, Finland has had almost as many governments. That means that the country has gone through a Cabinet a year. After the latest election results it doesn't look as if a future Cabinet will have a longer period of office.

The Finns are after all individualists both in private life and in politics. On a visit to Moscow President Kekkonen once told his Russian hosts that even if everybody else in the world were to become Communists, the Finns would not. The Russian reply is not known.

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 5 January 1972)

Pompidou now in a strong position

Even critical observers of the Paris scene admit without any further ado that Georges Pompidou would achieve a clear victory if the presidential elections were to be held today.

Pompidou, in office for the past two and a half years, ensured himself of popularity and esteem in 1971 through his successes in foreign policy. De Gaulle attracted most of his popularity in this field and Pompidou is proving a worthy successor.

The French look upon Pompidou as the man who prepared the way for the provisional solution to the currency crisis. He ensured the stability of the franc and made his promise of steady economic growth and increasing affluence appear credible. He opened up the door to the Common Market for Britain and his summit talks with Edward Heath overcame any remaining obstacles.

In preparations for European detente, Pompidou continues to appear to be Russia's most important discussion partner now that Brezhnev has visited Paris. The French diplomatic service hopes that it can play a big part in overcoming the differences between East and West by preparing and carrying out a European Security Conference.

Pompidou remained a Gaullist in his foreign policy. The General's abstract aims at least still apply: national independence, a renunciation of bloc politics; the function of mediator in the world of international politics, a preparedness to cooperate with the rest of Western Europe and a policy of detente with the East.

In implementing these policies however, Pompidou has clearly departed from the style of his predecessor who is slowly beginning to fade into history. The time when Paris used to unleash diplomatic storms seems to be past.

Pompidou pays more attention to the feasibility of his foreign policy, though this does not mean to say that his pragmatism is unprincipled. There has been a shift in emphasis. De Gaulle introduced "all-round defence" and set out France's ambitions in foreign policy. Pompidou is more cautious in administering de Gaulle's legacy. Priority is given to Europe. This is connected with the new position of a growing Europe in the power balance between the three major powers. More than lip service is paid to the Third World.

Pompidou managed to turn all alterations of course from the old Gaullist line into personal successes this year. The Algerian oil affair with its lack-lustre results was the only failure in this respect though it has almost been forgotten.

In the Common Market negotiations with Britain Pompidou manoeuvred himself into a key position after already giving the green light in principle at the Hague summit of December 1969. Further French opposition would have endangered the unity of the European Economic Community.

In his meeting with Prime Minister Edward Heath last May in Paris Pompidou, acting on behalf of all Common Market countries, tested Britain's loyalty to Europe, especially her willingness to steer towards the European Europe propagated by Paris and give up her special relations with the United States.

Paris could be seen by all sides to be the gate through which entry to the EEC would proceed. Pompidou saw the fulfilment of de Gaulle's old and always sceptically uttered demand that the British Isles must be prepared to moor themselves to the Continent.

At the same time the foundations were laid for the revival of the Entente Cordiale, at least for closer political cooperation, perhaps to be followed soon by military cooperation. Most orthodox Gaullists accepted this.

In last year's currency crisis Pompidou was also able to combine the old Gaullist principles of dollar devaluation an a more disciplined American currency policy with national and also European interests.

France was certainly in a better position to carry out this policy than her partners in the Common Market. France was best situated to confront the United States and isolate herself temporarily within the EEC.

But that does not alter the fact that the French President made a correct assessment of the balance of power between Europe and America before the outbreak of the dollar crisis last August and was able to build up a position from which he could negotiate.

Hans Bartsch

(Kieler Nachrichten, 4 January 1972)

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■ INTER GERMAN RELATIONS

Time not ripe for a 'general solution' between the two Germanies

Frankfurter Allgemeine

There is talk of the Federal Republic and the German Democratic Republic concluding a general treaty – following the successful completion of the agreement on Berlin countersigned by the Four Powers.

This expression "general treaty" is not satisfactory, nor is the idea that lies behind it. And the later variant of a "basic treaty" is scarcely any better since it is too highly reminiscent of Basic Law, the Federal Republic constitution.

A general, basic settlement of the relations between the two German States – isn't this whole idea a contradiction of the proviso to which every settlement must be subject, that the right of self-determination of the whole German people must be respected?

It is possible to consider even the Ostpolitik of the present government as something essential, something unavoidable. But no one can overlook the decided advantage that this policy gives to a State apparatus that has arisen and continues to exist on German soil without the free decision of the people who live there.

The first moves in the Ostpolitik, that is to say the efforts to improve the relationship between this country and the East Bloc States, were centred around the GDR.

Although East Berlin had to swallow one or two unpalatable clauses the overall arrangement reached between the two States can be seen as bringing greater advantages to the East Berlin government.

Working from the Berlin situation in its negotiations with Western countries the GDR has managed to make a decisive step in the direction of the international recognition for which it is striving.

We have now seen clearly demonstrated what comes of negotiations between two German States with a different social setup and a different group of partners in their foreign policy, and what cannot come out of such talks.

What with the concessions that have been made so far and all that has been achieved as a result it is important to point out again and again just how little the term "normalisation" applies to a situation where the citizens of the GDR are still incarcerated behind barbed wire and concrete walls and nothing much has changed as regards their way of life.

Every agreement that implies normalisation while the old setup is maintained and which thus by irrefutable logic upholds the order that Germans may shoot Germans at the border signifies support for the East Berlin regime.

This may contain other aspects, which are of far less comfort for the German Democratic Republic and its government, but no one can then prevent the East Berlin powers-that-be from cashing in on the concessions that have been made to them.

This is the dilemma in which the Bonn Ostpolitik is caught, at least where it is concerned with the GDR.

Every step forward in the direction of "human easements" is also a step towards the kind of recognition which will allow the GDR to maintain a state of affairs in which at least the much vaunted "human easements" are an ersatz for human rights which are withheld.

The much talked about general treaty in the form it can be expected to take in the circumstances obtaining today would in no way resemble the kind of relationship that exists between two States linked by normal diplomatic relations. But the very name of the treaty would be sufficient to give the impression that such a relationship did exist between West and East Germany.

A general tidying up of the relationship between the Federal Republic and the GDR: something of this kind would certainly fit well into the East Berlin concept. This is a tone to which we should not give our approval.

And now there is even talk in Bonn of time being pressing for the agreements to be arranged between the Federal Republic and the German Democratic Republic which are to be put on a common denominator.

One of the main reasons being given for the pressure of time is that a number of other countries all over the world intend to assume diplomatic relations with our neighbours in the East.

They are taking Bonn's best interests into consideration – since Bonn is in most cases a much more important partner for them – and are only prepared to put off the act of recognition for as long as is required to give the go-ahead to a general settlement of the relations between the one Germany and the other. But of course they are not prepared to wait forever.

Taking account of the fact that in the past the Bonn government has probably considered itself under the pressure of time before in its handling of the compley of treaties with the East Bloc and thus hastened probably made more concessions for less in return than it might have achieved by taking its time, one can only quiver at the renewed mention of hurry.

The upvaluation of the GDR that would come from recognition by the larger German State, the one belonging to Nato and the EEC and allied with the free world, would be far more significant than the accredition of some new ambassador in East Berlin.

It is presumably quite certain that there will be a general expansion of diplomatic relationships between the GDR and other countries.

But is it in our best interests to speed up this process and sanction it by acting under the pressure of time and completing and inter-State agreement that is not more favourable than the normal standards, but in fact rather less?

The Hallstein Doctrine with its regorous form, which had its significance in its day has long since been overcome. We should not allow ourselves to be subjected to a reversed form of it in which it is up to us to start negotiations with the GDR. This would just mean putting ourselves in chains.

No one really believes that the GDR – which, unlike us is really in a hurry – could march into the United Nations alone, leaving us behind.

Boiling it down to the essentials, the time for a "general solution" between the two States is not ripe. A "general treaty" would be out of place. And the individual outstanding problems that still have to be discussed cannot be bargained under the threat of time pressure.

Nikolas Benckiser

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 6 January 1972)

West Berlin mayor Schütz is no Willy Brandt

Wanted: a role for West Berlin. The divided city which still conjures up the image of a frontier town would like to be tomorrow's European metropolis.

The agreement on Berlin by the Four Powers, which has since been complemented by inter-German agreements, could be of use in promoting this idea.

It is precisely because the implementation of this agreement has been linked with the business of ratifying the Berlin and Moscow Treaties that Berlin can be considered a barometer measuring the climate of increasing reconciliation between East and West.

If Willy Brandt had not gone on to become Federal Chancellor West Berlin would today have the governing mayor it needs. On the other hand, of course, if Brandt were still in Berlin it is unlikely we would have had the Chancellor we needed to push through the Berlin settlement against tough opposition in this country and abroad.

Of course, Berlin is not without a leader. Governing mayor Klaus Schütz, a man who has the full confidence of Willy Brandt, had a good deal to do with the completion of the settlement. But he is not the kind of man on whom the world's attention focuses as was Brandt in his Berlin days.

This, too, has its positive side, since there have been numerous attempts to make West Berlin into a third German State since Brandt left. If Schütz were a statesman of international standing he might have unwittingly given impetus to these attempts to create a "Berlin foreign policy".

The difficulty lies in upvaluing Schütz as a European without making him any more elevated than the head of a Federal state.

Werner Giering

(Kieler Nachrichten, 6 January 1972)

Bonn has been generous on transit agreements

A simple transit visa? With unaccustomed generosity the GDR border officials have been offering West Germans and West Berliners a double form of crossing permit at their checkpoints since 1 January.

And for those who reject this offer there is a florid description of the possibilities that could lead them to use a double transit visa.

The question is whether this generosity is a piece of propaganda-coloured brotherly love designed to show the citizen of the Federal Republic the financial relief that has been granted him, not least by the cordial agreement with the German Democratic Republic, or whether it is simply a question of piling up the return journey visas for statistics to be presented to the Bonn government in the second half of 1975 when the negotiations take place to decide what the overall lump sum for transit journeys will be in the future.

This would-be generous handout from the powers-that-be in East Berlin even before the Berlin agreement with its financial provisions takes effect in no way detracts from their bargaining position, nor does it make life uncomfortable for them in any other way.

It is simply and solely that this arrangement helps to fill the currency exchange coffers of the GDR, which are now as ever not exactly overflowing, to the tune of 234,900,000 Marks in 1972.

During the period of talks between State secretaries Michael Kohl for the East and Egon Bahr for Bonn it was mentioned that the financial settlement might be brought forward. The idea was that the millions involved would not be going to waste if there were a delay to the implementation of the East Bloc treaties.

Without doubt the Bonn negotiators were not niggardly when it came to fixing the annual all-in sum. Comparative figures for 1970 show this clearly. Bonn refunded by post 29,700,000 Marks to those who decided to go to Berlin other than by air.

In addition to this, the Ministry for Inter German Relations assesses, about one million Marks remained in the national coffers from transit passengers failing to claim back the fee for their visa.

Up to now it has also been a question of refunding road taxes levied for the Berlin journey to haulage operators. In 1970 this sum amounted to a sizeable figure, 38,900,000 Marks.

But the most expensive due claim by the East German authorities was the 52,300,000 Marks for the tax adjustment levy, which was introduced by the GDR in 1968 for lorry and barge traffic.

Taken together these sums amount to 120 million Marks. To this must be added the fee for use of the transit roads by private passenger cars, and which will now also be covered by the overall payment.

The stretch from Helmstedt/Marienborn to Berlin, which is used most frequently by transit traffic costs five Marks per car. On the longer transit routes, for instance Berlin to Hamburg this is increased to fifteen Marks.

Only the GDR authorities themselves know how many Marks have been paid into their currency reserve funds in this way. Estimates are at around sixteen or seventeen million.

The all-in payment will also include licence fees for bus operators and permits for the routes operating. Foreign workers in the Federal Republic and West Berlin will also no longer be required to dig into their own pocket to pay for the transit journey.

Total income from transit traffic in the past two years has hovered around the 150 million mark. But when the team of experts behind Egon Bahr and Michael worked out the overall figure for future all-in payments by Bonn they worked on the assumption that transit traffic would increase considerably after the agreement, both passenger and goods.

The expected figures for the years 1972 to 1975 were added together and divided by four. With certainty the GDR this year and next will make a welcome cut. But the chances that the all-in sum of 235 million Marks will be realistic by 1974 and 1975 cannot be ruled out.

What is actually done with the jingling coins in the GDR transit-traffic cash box is something that Western observers cannot get to the bottom of. It is probably that this money comes straight back into the Federal Republic in payment for goods delivered. In inter-German trade the GDR is up to its eyes in debt.

Visits of pensioners to the Federal Republic, prior to which the old folk can exchange money up to five Marks as well as the prestigious sporting tours to the Western world all have to be paid for with currency exchange.

And another benefit is that the higher income from all-in transit fees is to be used on a more intensive road-building and improvement programme on transit stretches.

Sten Martenson

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 5 January 1972)

■ THE POLITICAL WORLD

President Gustav Heinemann reviews his presidency in mid-term

Frankfurter Neue Presse

President Heinemann said in an interview given half way through his five-year term of office that the powers granted him under Basic Law, the West German constitution, were adequate and he did not wish to have them extended in any way.

The largest group among the almost ten thousand persons whom President Heinemann has received singly or in groups since 1 July 1969 includes two thousand young people.

President Heinemann, who has always described contact with the younger generation to be his main aim, stated that these meetings have had no visible political effects but they had shown that he was still trusted and listened to by the young.

The President has also had many fruitful discussions with members of the Bundeswehr who gave him a fair idea of what life was like within the armed forces. He has met a total of 114 soldiers of all ranks. Three armed forces evenings have been arranged in his residence.

Gustav Heinemann, the "people's president", has also been described as the "minorities' president" because of his support for various minorities. He does not object to this description, admitting that there is some truth in it though it must be understood correctly.

All people belong to some sort of minority or other, the President said. But there were minorities that were discriminated against and were unable to protect their interests.

That was why he and his wife had taken it upon themselves to visit or invite foreign workers, the mentally handicapped, unmarried mothers and prisoners. This brought their problems to public attention.

President Heinemann can also point to individual cases where he was able to provide some help. A post office in a small town in Hesse where there was a home for the handicapped built a ramp for people in wheelchairs who could not climb the steps.

In another case the railways decided to build a special halt after patients at an orthopaedic hospital complained that they could no longer catch a train enabling them to travel home for the weekend.

The President is happy to report that his speech in Bremen calling for a new way of writing history has prompted a lively discussion, especially among historians.

What is more, during his visits to various towns and cities he has found that people are tending to turn more and more to local historical events involving rebellion against slavery or injustice.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 3 January 1972)

Bill proposes penalties for glorification of violence

Glorifying violence and inciting others to racial hatred are two offences that will be subject to punishment in future. A Bill from the Bundestag Penal Reform Committee proposing fines or imprisonment of up to one year for glorifying violence was accepted by a large majority.

The Bundestag will probably make its final decision on the Committee's Bill for a new paragraph 131 of the Penal Code during the course of the spring.

The Committee Bill proposes fines or prison sentences for those who distribute, publicly display or make generally available literature or pictures depicting violence against persons that is of a cruel or otherwise inhuman nature and glorifies such acts of violence or incites to racial hatred.

Persons producing, distributing or stocking such literature or pictures or offering them or making them available to children will also be subject to fines or imprisonment.

Cases of glorification of violence will not be punishable when they are part of a report on events occurring now or in the past.

If the Bundestag and Bundesrat approve the Bill, the Federal Republic will be the first country in the world to include a law of this type on its statute books.

The seventeen members of the special committee believe that the Bill will provide strict limits for the glorification of violence. The Social Democrat legal affairs expert de With recently stated that copying depictions of violence was far more dangerous than being influenced by pornography.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 30 December 1971)

Bundestag passes 82 laws in 1971

During the past twelve months the Bundestag passed 82 laws that came into effect before the end of 1971. The government submitted 53 of these Bills. The Opposition submitted its own versions of ten of the government Bills.

Seven joint Bills were submitted by all Bundestag parties, three by the parties in the governing coalition and two by the Opposition. The Bundesrat submitted six Bills of its own, most of them concerned with law.

The main fields of legislative work in 1971 were in social services policy, the law governing public officials and the continuation of law reform. Basic Law was changed in two places as a result of the extension of the skeleton law governing public officials.

Four laws concerned with social services policy and improving the current situation were passed in 1971 and came into force on 1 January 1972.

Another 600,000 families will now be able to claim family allowance for their second child. Families with a monthly income of less than 1,250 Marks will now be eligible to receive it. The previous maximum monthly income was 1,000 Marks.

Two and a half million war victims have also had their pensions raised by an average of 6.3 per cent from the beginning of January. This will cost an extra 452 million Marks.

Among the most important laws on domestic policy is the law governing the compensation for damage resulting from prosecution measures. According to this there will be compensation for the time spent in custody even when the person involved has what is termed a second-class acquittal.

Compensation will be paid for the economic damage caused by the unjustified confiscation of a driving licence. Amends must also be made for the damage done to the reputation of an accused person.

The central register law governs the establishment of a central Federal register in West Berlin. The penal registers run by the 93 public prosecutors have been fed into a centralised register and stored in a computer.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 31 December 1971)

Jahn sticks to his guns over abortion

Minister of Justice Gerhard Jahn is continuing to support the introduction of a list of essential conditions if an abortion is to be permitted, a course he has advocated from the very outset of discussions on abortion law reform.

In an interview with the Deutschlandfunk broadcasting service Jahn stated that his views were unaffected by a resolution of the Social Democratic Party Congress last autumn when the overwhelming majority of delegates called for abortions to be made legal during the first three months of a pregnancy, the other course proposed during the discussion of this issue.

The Minister repeated that the decisive argument in favour of his proposal was the fact that it took into account the interests of both the mother and unborn child.

The list of conditions makes it clear that the termination of a pregnancy would be an exception rather than the rule, he said. That is also true with the relatively broadly-based list of conditions that the Minister is obviously aiming for.

Health must not be understood under purely physical aspects when the medical and social preconditions for an abortion are being considered, the Minister said. Instead health must be thought of in its broadest context.

But Jahn avoided mentioning the World Health Organisation's concept of health that he always used to like using as a yardstick for restricting the list of medical and social preconditions.

When asked whether the regulations governing detention pending investigation should be tightened up, Jahn replied that he had not spoken hesitantly on behalf of the government when the Bundesrat, the upper house, decided to submit a Bill to this effect. The only reason the government was not submitting its own Bill was because it planned to accelerate the legislative procedure, he claimed.

The government was now concentrating on drawing up its position on the Bundesrat proposal of extending the system of preventive detention to other offences, Jahn added. Proceedings in this case would thus be accelerated.

Jahn once again pointed out that tightening up the custody regulations could only be one step in the fight against crime. It was in no way the only or the major step.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 3 January 1972)

More opportunities for army objectors

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Conscientious objectors should not be allowed to work on the railways and postal services "for security reasons" according to the CDU/CSU Opposition parties. But there is no objection to their being employed on civil defence and disaster relief work.

The Opposition has also suggested that the scope of jobs that are given to conscripts refusing to sign up for the armed forces should be extended to work other than social services.

Egon Klepsch, the CDU/CSU spokesman on military affairs, told the press that his party did not have a general service stint in mind that would take in women of conscription age as well.

It was simply that the CDU/CSU would like the range of "substitute duties" for conscripts as contained in Basic Law applied in practice more fully than it has been in the past.

In the CDU/CSU view the following turn of duties would be suitable for those who refuse to join the forces: hospital work, accident emergency services, work in orphanages, work in old people's homes, work in various branches of the anti-pollution and environmental protection scheme, tending parks, gardens and other protected areas, assistance in tending sports grounds and play areas, clearing woodland paths and work in public buildings and areas, for instance as traffic wardens and on gravel spreading on icy roads.

Work proposed for conscientious objectors in civil defence and disaster relief would include activities to prevent pollution of the environment.

In order to improve the system by which the services of conscripts are arranged the CDU/CSU suggests setting up special recruitment offices which would deal not only with conscientious objectors but also with those joining the forces or the border guard service. A similar suggestion was made by the Bundeswehr Association two years ago.

According to the Opposition the government should have the right to implement an adjustable period of service of between twelve and eighteen months without asking permission of the Bundestag.

According to Herr Klepsch there are between 26,000 and 30,000 conscientious objectors and only 7,300 recognised alternative jobs for them to serve on.

Herr Iven, the government official responsible for alternative service facilities says the number of possible substitute posts is 7,800. This number has he added, increasing by 150 to 200 every month.

Hartmut Palmer

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 17 December 1971)

Honorary citizen Brandt

Chancellor Willy Brandt is to be made an honorary citizen of his home town, Lübeck, Mayor Werner Kock announced after the city senate unanimously passed a resolution to this effect.

Lübeck's Social Democrats proposed granting Brandt honorary citizenship of the city last January but the motion was withdrawn a few weeks later because of the opposition of local Christian Democrats.

Writer Thomas Mann and Swiss Professor Carl Jakob Burckhardt were also made honorary citizens of Lübeck during their lifetime.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 18 December 1971)

■ EMPLOYMENT

Open-plan office system criticised

Ideologists usually have the first say. Some of them speak of better organisation and communication, simplification and democratisation while others fear concentration, constant control, the loss of prestige and the risk to health. Permanent battle between the advocates of open-plan offices and those of individual rooms seems inevitable.

Discussions on the introduction of open-plan office accommodation have been conducted in many organisations in the Federal Republic during the past ten years. They all ran along the same lines and they nearly all ended with both sides making concessions.

Lufthansa is so far the largest West German firm to have introduced open-plan office accommodation consistently. For the past two years the concern has been able to gain experience of the new system in its fifteen-storey administrative headquarters on the right bank of the Rhine in Cologne.

Apart from the board of directors, the thousand staff members work in new-style surroundings. Lufthansa has now only ten consultation rooms available and these are nearly always booked up.

Other firms have made more concessions to the individual and material needs of the higher members of staff. In the Barmenia insurance firm of Wuppertal the top two personnel managers were allowed to have rooms of their own.

Heads of department at BP in Hamburg were able to choose between isolation and constant contact. One in two refused to work in the open-plan accommodation but they had to pay a price – the rooms in which they now work are like bare cells in comparison.

Despite its otherwise uncompromising attitude Lufthansa too was unable to avoid making concessions. Under the plans for the open-plan accommodation in its Cologne headquarters it was proposed that only members of staff with a great need for space (some of the top executives as well as the women from the clippings service) should receive a larger desk.

Higher salaries were not to be reflected by larger desks. But things have proved different in practice and now every head of department has been given his status symbol.

But many heads of department had to give up one their most important status symbols – their secretary. Open-plan working has permitted effective rationalisation of secretarial work. The number of secretarial and clerical staff dropped by a quarter despite the fact that Lufthansa has more staff today than it did before moving into the building.

Some allowances are now being made for the application of personal taste at a person's place of work. Movable walls are now permitted irrespective of cost or the open-plan ideal. Additional separating walls are allowed even if the aesthetics or ventilation suffer as a result.

What was originally planned as a standardised office pool can now be seen in a number of versions, ranging from the proposed loose groupings to a landscape of fortifications where staff have turned their desk into a castle. Amateur psychologists would have a field day.

But concessions of this type have meant that only a small group among the staff still oppose the open-plan system. And only thirty per cent see as many drawbacks as advantages in the new-style pool.

Simplification of working procedure is looked upon as the most positive feature of open-plan offices. Contacts between individual members of staff and their superiors are speedier and less complicated.

Every member of staff is better informed. Teamwork does not need a set of rules. Office hierarchy is not so rigid. It has been found that people have become more friendly, helpful and polite. The more tenuous links to colleagues on other floors is outweighed by the greater contact enjoyed with other departments in the same room.

The constant control by superiors – a frequent complaint of members of staff before the changeover – has proved less of a problem than was first imagined. Seeing and being seen is not thought of as a restriction of personal liberty as people grow used to the system.

The constant visual presence of a superior only disturbs staff members working in open-plan accommodation when the departmental head acts more like an overseer than an executive.

The authoritarian style of leadership is exposed more easily under the open-plan system than in the traditional office. Rank-pulling, shouting and similar features of an outdated belief in office hierarchy are impossible in the new-style pool. The problem of control is reversed. It is not the boss who controls the other members of staff. He too is also subject to constant control.

Helmut Schmeck, the head of Lufthansa's central organisation, confirmed this. Under the open-plan system much greater demands were placed on the qualities of leadership of top executives, he stated. They must adapt themselves more frequently to their subordinates. As the filter effect of the secretarial system is no longer present to such a degree they must always be cooperative and ready to hear what their staff have to say.

Concentration under the open-plan system has become a general problem however. The constant noise (opponents of the scheme claim that the main product of the open-plan system is sickness) is, along with ventilation, the weakest point in the new-style accommodation.

The noise of typewriters, telephone conversations and discussions must all be tolerated despite the fact that they are normally completely divorced from a person's own work.

The subject of noise is more topical at the Lufthansa administrative building than in many other concerns. As paradoxically as this may sound, the ventilation there functions too quietly. It no longer acts as a background hum shutting out other, less regular noise.

An experiment was carried out on one floor to counteract this by playing tapes of neutral sounds such as street noise or murmuring. But the result was not satisfactory as half the members of staff involved opposed the idea outright.

Working under an open-plan system involves putting up with noise but not everyone is able to do this. For many people it entails a loss in efficiency or leisure time. Employees who find it hard to concentrate either accept the decline in their efficiency or take work home.

If Lufthansa were to build another headquarters it would not only be the boards of directors who would receive rooms of their own but also all members of staff whose work needs a high degree of concentration or secrecy.

Gerhard Frühe, responsible for personnel affairs on the Lufthansa board, stated, "The open-plan system should be viewed functionally and not ideologically."

Heidi Dürr

(Die Zeit, 31 December 1971)



A view of Lufthansa's open-plan offices (Photo: Wolfgang Prange)

More police jobs

The Bundestag has approved proposals to increase the staff of the Federal Criminal Office in Wiesbaden by 71. The new positions will be open for office workers, officials and ordinary workers.

According to Interior Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, speaking at a recent press conference, the increased staff will help with programmes to intensify the police fight against crime by the establishment of a central bureau.

The new jobs are available for the central criminal police investigation squad that will deal with a new filing system for finger prints, the radio-photo network, telex information and for improved training and research.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 28 December 1971)

Women suited for many male jobs, institute claims

Prejudice is one of the main reasons why the professions open to women have been restricted practically to the home and such jobs as nursing or auxiliary staff.

The Erlangen Institute for Labour Market and Career Research (IAB) has now supplied statistics confirming this old belief. Inquiries among the bosses of 0.5 per cent of the total male working population in the Federal Republic reveal that 35 per cent of the men hold positions that could also be held by women with the appropriate qualifications.

Objectively, women should be suited for a far greater number of posts as the bosses approached during inquiries did not only judge whether they were up to the physical strain but also had certain ideas about the role of women in society.

This is indicated by the fact that most doctors in the United States are men while the overwhelming majority in the Soviet Union are women. In Denmark women make up seventy per cent of all dentists, in the Federal Republic only fourteen per cent.

A woman's field of professional activity is restricted by the "role-oriented" education and career training received while still a girl.

The IAB claims that girls are underrepresented at high schools, making up a proportion of only 43 per cent. Only one student in four at university belongs to the allegedly weaker sex, at schools of technology it is only one in twenty and in schools of engineering only one in fifty.

Only half of all women employees have had a course of career training and eighty per cent of the total female working population with some sort of qualifications are concentrated in fourteen professions.

Few women are trained for skilled and technical trades but the IAB inquiries showed that women could have a good

Frankfurter Rundschau

chance of entering some of these professions.

Though women make up less than ten per cent of all precision tool-makers, television mechanics, typesetters, printers and bakers more than half these positions were described as suitable for women.

Women hold less than ten per cent of the positions in the engineering and technical professions but the proportion of posts suitable for women is anywhere between 45 and 73 per cent.

Bosses estimate that fifty per cent of the posts for architects and civil engineers could be filled by women. The figure for academic professions such as judges, doctors and university teachers reaches almost one hundred per cent.

The Erlangen Institute – a branch of the Nuremberg-based Federal Labour Institute – wisely avoids calling upon women to force their way into fields that are currently all-male domains. This would have forced women into the cut-throat competition of our industrial society.

By pointing out the opportunities that women have been missing, the Institute has made a long-overdue contribution to ridding people of antiquated prejudices.

It is a fact that because of these prejudices the existing reserves of talent have been nothing like fully exploited even though the proportion of women at work has remained constant. This has been to the detriment of the whole economy.

Fritz Kral

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 31 December 1971)

■ THE ECONOMY

Kiel institute weighs up end of year economic situation

Although the economic situation in Western Europe and Japan may not facilitate the intended swing in the US balance of trade we must reckon with decided changes in the flow of trade between individual countries throughout the next few years as a result of the realignment of currency exchange rates.

This is the forecast issued by the Institute for International Economics (IfW) in Kiel in its report on world economic and currency policies at the turn of the years 1971-1972.

The Institute considers that fears of recession following the devaluation of the Dollar and revaluation of some other important currencies which was decided upon at the talks of Washington are exaggerated.

A cutback in production in the countries that have revalued is unlikely in the light of the boost that is expected in the United States' economy.

Of course it is not expected that the actual national product in America in the first half of 1972 will expand much above the rate for the second half of last year (about 5.5 per cent), but in the course of the year the demand for capital investment commodities should liven up.

In the view of the IfW another contributory factor to expansion in the second half of 1972 will be the tax reliefs that industry as well as the private consumer can expect.

The growth of exports is likely to suffer a downturn as a result of dollar devaluation but "it should still be possible to achieve a slight growth rate compared to exports last year".

The Kiel institute accepts the proposed devaluation rate of 7.3 per cent as a realistic figure for improving the competitiveness of American products and helping to cut back the unemployment rate.

With an improvement of 800 million dollars per percentage of devaluation in the US balance of trade there would be a total improvement of roughly six milliard dollars, as opposed to the improvement by ten to thirteen milliard Dollars which was at first called for.

Thus there will be a beneficial influence on other aspects of the balance of payments and thus the basic balance as a result of this monetary devaluation, as opposed to the previously tried devaluation by fiscal means.

In addition to this there should be the benefits from the forthcoming trade policy agreements with the European Economic Community countries and Japan, which, however, are described as "hardly worth mentioning".

For those countries that trade to a large degree with America the improvement in the American balance of payments does mean on the one hand that companies must plan their investments more accurately than when the economic graph is on the downgrade.

On the other hand these countries can reckon that the inroads made into their economy by the recharging of the American economy are more likely to lead them to expansive measures, as has already happened in certain countries (Japan, Canada and France).

For Japan, which introduced the heaviest rate of revaluation, liberalised its import restrictions and concluded the self-imposed limitation clause for textile production, the IfW states that a complete slump in exports in the first half of 1972 cannot be ruled out.

It also reckons with a further postponement of the economic boost originally planned for the summer of 1971 until the end of the next year.The gross national product in 1972 should increase seven per cent as opposed to 5.5 per cent.

According to the IfW the chief beneficiary from the American economic upgrade will be Canada, two-thirds of whose exports go to her neighbour. Fiscal boosters should be of particular benefit in the consumer sector where demand is expected to rise, so that the actual national product in 1972 should increase at almost as fast a rate as in 1971.

In almost all the mainland European countries demand is likely to increase so slightly that the degree to which production capacities are used will continue to sink throughout 1972.

This even applies to France where although the currency has been revalued against the dollar the franc has been subjected to an overall devaluation. Unlike in other countries the actual national product in France is expected to grow at quite a considerable rate of between 4.5 and 5.5 per cent.

Demand in Great Britain and probably Italy, too, is expected to swell again; from midyear onwards it is expected investments will pick up.

The institute says that with prices rising rapidly everywhere many countries will

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Industriekurier

place stabilisation of the currency at a higher priority than giving the economy a booster to cut unemployment.

There is likely to be no slowing down of the price spiral in Western Europe, particularly in those countries that have avoided having their currency noticeably revalued. It is only in the United States and Great Britain that the IfW sees an opportunity of checking spiralling prices.

The Kiel institute will not be party to the euphoria which has greeted the currency realignment organised in Washington. The agreement is nothing more than "a first step, which leads in the right direction but which leaves the basic problems of world currency relationships unsolved."

Even the increased bandwidths would not preserve the world from future currency crises without binding adjustment regulations for currencies in order to avoid fundamental balance of payments disparity.

(Handelsblatt, 30 December 1971)

Bundesbank eases credit squeeze

While the international monetary negotiations were taking place most governments and banks of issue hesitated in applying new measures to relax credit restrictions, since they wanted to see what the outcome of the conference would be first.

Accordingly, now that the task of realigning currencies has been completed corrections are being made in many countries to credit policy measures.

In the forefront of these presumably will be the lowering of rates of interest, since almost all important industrial nations are now concentrating on implementing measures to get their economies on an expansive course once again.

It is against this background that the latest decisions taken by the Central Bank Committee should be viewed.

Bank Rate has been lowered from four-and-a-half to four per cent and the Lombard Rate has been reduced from five-and-a-half to five, thus preventing the opening up of a credit gap between the Federal Republic and other countries which could have led to another heavy influx of hot dollars.

A reduction in Bank Rate alone would not have been effective in bringing down rates of interest without a simultaneous increase in the amount of liquid cash available to banks by means of a decrease in the minimum required reserves. This is the extraordinary aspect of the latest measures taken by the Bundesbank.

From the point of view of the domestic economic scene a further relaxation of the credit squeeze is a valid move, especially as the vital wage negotiations with metalworkers have now come to an end.

Of course the no less important wage scale negotiations for the civil service are still in motion, but as far as they are concerned the requirements of industry and the economy are being given little attention if any.

Demands are being made by civil servants at will since they have no need to fear losing their job, being put on short-time or facing a lockout.

For this reason this is another sphere in which the instruments of economic policy have failed completely, which is of course the fault of our system of economic controls, which is boosted as being so great.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 23 December 1971)



Recession in 1972 is unlikely

People's material interests and their cost and style of living are generally speaking the most important political factor in their everyday life. Although reconciliation with the East is far more significant than a two-per-cent price riseit is the economic performance of the government which decides whether it stands or falls at the polling booths.

Germans are particularly hot on this point. When it comes to economics they are perfectionists having known all degrees of imperfection. Two catastrophic inflations in fifty years have sharpened their senses for the falling value of money. Mass unemployment forty years ago implanted a sense that the loss of a job was a state of emergency in the mind of the people.

Investigations have shown that people in this country grow more restless than people in other countries if either of these two dangers is spotted on the horizon.

It is significant that the bold claim that price stability and full emplyment would be achieved at the same time has been elevated virtually to the level of a law in the Federal Republic.

Meantime we have seen what is left of the much vaunted stability and growth legislation. Despite possessing what was supposed to be the most modern economic policy armoury this country was unable to check the greatest boom of the post-war era which presented this country with the highest rate of price increases for twenty years.

Our economy is as much as ever caught between the two enemy armies of creeping or galloping inflation and the threat of unemployment. Fluctuations in the economy have manifested themselves more strongly than in the past.

No one yet knows whether the next twelve months would bring the much wanted calming down of the economy or whether the pendulum will swing too far and bring undesirable effects.

Price stability bought at the expense of an army of unemployed is too expensive. But most experts do not think that it will come to such a pass. The consider a recession unlikely. But it is fairly certain that the number of people out of work will increase. All we can hope is that alongside this the rate of depreciation of money will slow down.

Three factors above all will decide the course of events: increases to wages and salaries, how far industrialists trust government policies and the outcome of the continuing economic battle between America and Europe.

More stable prices could be achieved if the trade unions exercised discipline in their wage claims and if they make it clear to the labour force how essential this is.

It depends on this, but also on the relationship between industrialists and the government whether and when increased investments will give a boost to the economy. The prerequisite for this is that economic growth should not be hampered by a worldwide trade warfare.

The talks between Chancellor Brandt and representatives of industry in mid-December could mark the start of an exchange of ideas which would break down prejudices, dispel unnecessary worries and free justified criticism on both sides from emotion.

But the Chancellor should not let himself be downgraded to the position of the man answerable to a lobby of influential people. He can, however, help clear up some basic problems through direct contact.

Industrialists should be reassured that even a Social Democrat governing party threatened by its left wing might slaughter or drive out the cow that everyone wants to milk, namely free economic enterprise based on the profit motive.

On the other hand the free enterprise system must remain open to reform. Skilled industrial leaders will not underestimate the stabilising political influence which the SPD exercises if it can maintain its integrating force to the left – but of course within responsible limits.

From the social welfare policy point of view the Social Democrats are walking a narrow and thorny path. Their political manifesto states that they must seek a greater degree of equality and social justice in economics and in society. But they would be throwing away the right to govern which they achieved amid such difficulty if they were to fall prey to an exaggerated desire to make all equal which undermined the incentive provided by material ambitions.

The Opposition is keeping an eagle eye on the government's balancing act. It will do everything in its power to make the electorate feel that it provides a genuine alternative, especially in this sphere.

Shortly before the old year died the government clocked up a late success. The international currency crisis was overcome in a way that did not put too much strain on the West German economy.

The return to fixed exchange rates gives exporters a reliable basis for their calculations. The fact that the dollar has been devalued for the first time since the thirties improves the prospects of a general overhaul of the international currency setup.

Indeed there is not yet a satisfactory

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■ DEVELOPMENT AID

Eppler urges the West to ginger up aid

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Minister for Economic Cooperation Erhard Eppler fears an escalation of discontent, as he puts it, with the Western world's development aid programme.

Eppler, who gives a report on the development aid programme put out by the SPD press service, sees the cause for growing discontent and the declining preparedness of industrialised countries to give aid mainly in the excessively close connection which numerous governments make between foreign policy and development aid.

When they cannot achieve by means of foreign policy – "undoubtedly because their ideas are based on illusions" – all they had expected, they find their desire to give assistance waning.

In direct proportion to this, bitterness in the Third World grows and it is only a small step from this kind of bitterness to outright hatred.

He said that 1971 had been a year of disappointments for developing countries. When the vital interests of industrial nations are at stake the Third World can do nothing but look on helplessly.

Developing countries were not only spectators "as the wave of a robust national egoism was bent on washing away the United States development aid programme", but were also passed over completely when the big boys met in Washington to realign the relationships of one currency to another. Their opinions were not asked.

In Eppler's opinion the currency reserves of the developing countries were hit harder than those of the industrialised world when the dollar was devalued because their holdings of gold were smaller.

As a result of this the third UN conference for trade and development (world trade conference) to be held in the spring in the Chilean capital Santiago is, in Eppler's eyes, at a disadvantage from the outset. He thinks that a major rapprochement of the OECD countries is required if the gulf between industrial nations and emerging nations is not to be widened even further.

In 1972 there must also be a clear decision on the future of the Indian subcontinent. The desperate attempt of the East Bengalis to wriggle out of an almost impossible situation has just made the plight of seventy million people in this overpopulated corner of the world even worse.

Only a massive relief operation from other countries can prevent this stricken area from becoming a constant source of conflict. But as Bonn stresses, there have been no international agreements even ventured at on how the industrialised nations should react to the new political situation in this area.

No country of the Western world has yet taken up diplomatic relations with the new State of Bangla Desh and internationally speaking there seems to be a general air of helplessness about what to do in this area in the immediate future.

As Eppler says, the Indo-Pakistani war did nothing to increase the preparedness of industrialised countries to help in East Bengal. In this situation, which is growing more difficult all the time, a new voice is likely to be heard increasingly – that of the People's Republic of China.

Peking is hardly likely to miss the opportunity of acting as spokesman for developing countries, Erhard Eppler maintains. In the next year we shall probably see how China takes up this role and pursues it.

The assumption of diplomatic relations with a number of Arab States gives the Federal Republic a new standing in this area, the Minister said. In his view it is most desirable that Europe should play a more active role in the Arab world for a multitude of reasons.

Eppler himself is on a two-week private holiday in Algeria, and while there will talk with several politicians.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 29 December 1971)



Erhard Eppler (Photo: J.H. Darchinger)

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trade agreement between the United States and Western Europe. The agricultural policy of the EEC with its emphasis on providing for its own needs and the expansive thrust in Europe towards new full members and new associates has long since turned the attitude of the Americans which was at the outset encouraging and later on well-wishing into a degree of worry.

In 1972 there will be hard-hitting negotiations centring on the export potential of the United States and EEC import concessions.

Europe should not make the mistake of cleaning up its own backyard by sweeping the rubbish into the American's. Nor should European countries allow the Americans to cause a split on this side of the Atlantic.

The principles of the Common Market must be defended vehemently. If this is not done the efforts to make progress along the road to an economic and currency union will be dead and buried in 1972. *Gerhard Meyenburg*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 30 December 1971)

Technical development aid emphasises self-help schemes

In the early days of technical aids for developing countries large-scale plant was built up, which later ran at a fraction of its total capacity if at all. Critics dubbed these factories "industrial memorials".

It was only later that more realistic plans were introduced and put into operation. Among these are development aid schemes that are confined entirely to education for the local populace.

In the Congo Democratic Republic, for example, where there are about 36,000 kilometres of national highways as well as 170,000 kilometres of country roads and city streets, a training centre for road-builders has been set up. The building and running of this centre is being undertaken by H. P. Gauff, an engineering firm from Nuremberg.

This project consists of a school, teaching the theories and basics of mathematics and physics as well as the French language and technical and practical education in the relevant spheres.

Stress is laid on the construction and maintenance of carriageways as well as the application and maintenance of the necessary building machinery. The school plans to turn out between fifty and seventy qualified roadbuilding experts every year. The end goal is to set up a highways control with 250 road-building and maintenance experts, each responsible for 500 kilometres of road in the Congo.

The society for organisation, planning and advanced education (GOPA), a limited company based in Bad Homburg, plans to develop craftsman skills in various directions, acting in an advisory capacity. This company operates in the West African State of Senegal.

Its work includes taking care of individual crafts such as pottery, woodwork, bookbinding, arts and crafts and the like, as well as making specific suggestions for the construction of a large crafts and industrial zone in the country around the Senegalese capital of Dakar.

Mechanics, carpenters and electricians are given training by instructors from this country at the Ethiopian school in Holetta for the teaching of craftsman skills. Extensions to this school are being built by Philipp Holzmann AG from Frankfurt am Main.

Apart from this project this firm is building the agricultural experimental station Ifakara, which is run by experts from the Federal Republic, in the East African State of Tanzania, 400 kilometres south-west of Dar-es-Salaam.

An "integrated agricultural development centre" at present being built in the Lusoto district of the Tanga region of Tanzania is of a very particular kind. This extremely heavily populated area, with 160 inhabitants per square kilometre was chosen, because poverty is rife there mainly on account of the population explosion and in spite of the fact that the climate is so favourable.

The point of this development scheme is to teach the locals how they can improve their position by making more beneficial use of their natural resources and how they can make their fields more productive, first and foremost as a result of better irrigation methods.

In each district a local craftsman is given further education so that he has at least a more than basic knowledge of the skills of mechanics, metalworking and installation techniques.

It is planned to build workshops where motor mechanics can be given further education so that they will be economically independent, particularly if they organise themselves into cooperatives.

The same applies to the further education of building workers. And a start has been made on projects for building up light industry in this area, such as for example a factory for producing bricks, and a plant for canning vegetables.

Two South American development projects organised by Agroprogress in Frankfurt concentrate entirely on cultivation of the land. The first of these projects is designed to help the settlements in the Gran Chaco area of Paraguay to overcome the inhibiting effects of the local subtropical climate with its extremes of temperature and precipitation.

Work there takes in the whole agricultural sphere from irrigation to planting, animal husbandry, automation, processing of agricultural products and organisation of sales markets.

Again, as with industrial processes, the main requirement is a sufficient degree of knowhow on matters such as fruiting, manure, pest control, animal rearing and the like. The possibilities of setting up an abattoir there as well as a refrigeration plant are being tried out and an attempt is being made to found a cooperative as well as a plant hire company.

Animal husbandry is at the core of the other Agroprogress project, along with all that is involved in rearing cattle. This project operates in the small and medium sized holdings of the Mantaro Valley area of the Andes in Peru, which are between 3,000 and 3,500 metres above sea level (in the region of 10,000 ft).

Here for example classes are given in how to keep beef cattle and to produce hay as fodder. It is planned to set up dairies, to show how this is done, and then to teach the locals how to process and market dairy products – up till now the peasant folk there have done no more than provide for their own needs – and the end product, it is hoped, will be dairy cooperatives.

As community installations it is planned to set up cattle breeding stations, seed banks, and a central hiring authority for farm machinery.

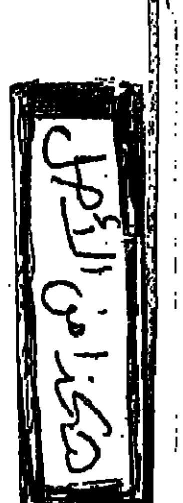
Technical education on a large scale is planned by Saudi Arabia for its people and in particular young Saudi Arabians. Lenz Planen + Beraten (planning and advice) in Mainz has drawn up a study in several sections, which is especially concentrating on righting the discrepancy between the number of up-and-coming personnel and the number of people already trained and qualified as technical experts.

Apart from a long-term development programme a plan for essential requirements such as the building of technical schools and polytechnics in nine areas of the country, professional advice bureaux, coordinated teacher training and further education beyond school level has been drawn up.

In the South Korean port of Pusan Mannesmann AG of Düsseldorf is supporting a Korean-West German Public Vocational Training Institute, which is being built. From the spring of 1972 onwards this will be giving specialised training to experts and technicians as well as holding adult education courses.

The number of places for apprentices at the outset will be 400, but this will later be doubled to 800. A section of the prospective Korean staff will be given a two-year training course in West German industrial concerns. *Hellmut Droscha*

(Der Tagesspiegel, 29 December 1971)



■ POLLUTION

Everyone must pay for environmental protection

It is not so long ago that smoking factory chimneys were regarded as a symbol of economic prosperity and growing wealth. Today people are going out of their way to remove the smoke from the chimneys.

Not so long ago anyone who spoke of saving Nature from destruction by mankind was laughed at. Today we know that this is a question of the very continued existence of mankind.

What has the government so far done about it? On 3 December protection of the environment was on the Bundestag order book. The fact that this controversy is gaining more and more attention meant that government and Opposition were united in their battle.

The list of what has been done so far is encouraging. The declaration of government policy with its far-reaching demands was followed by decisive action. On 6 June 1970 the Bonn government formed a Cabinet committee for environmental affairs.

On 17 September the same year an immediate programme was put forward that was carried out on 27 August 1971 with the introduction of the Bill to reduce noxious emissions. The advice of 600 experts was sought and for some weeks now the government's completed conservation programme has been on the table.

In the meantime the powers-that-be have not contented themselves with drawing up plans of campaign. The so-called lead-content law is designed to prevent the slow poisoning of mankind through the addition of lead to motor fuel.

The garbage disposal law and amendments to water supply legislation are coming up to the last parliamentary hurdle. These laws make up the immediate programme that was launched in September 1970.

And pollution prevention on paper continues. Provisions for drawing up environmental statistics, further improvements to water conservation legislation and the laws governing additives to foodstuffs and pest control are being drafted.

We must not forget amendments being made to penalties applicable to pollutors. At the moment the general public is fairly impotent to deal with those who pollute the world around them, since penalties are far too lenient. Industrialists who make millions from a process which involves polluting water and air put down a fine of a few thousands to overheads. In future provision will be made for penalties not exceeding 100,000 Marks and imprisonment of up to ten years.

Such a positive stand has been taken that no one can now accuse the government of doing nothing for the sake of an expanding economy.

The principle of tracking down the main offenders is now being carried out to the letter and in brief the latest idea is that whoever does the damage shall be responsible for repairing it. Therefore the many thousands of millions that must be spent on the project of protecting the environment will come first and foremost from those who are largely responsible.

This is mainly industry but it is also the duty of local authorities who must improve their facilities for disposing of waste and sewage.

But in the end it is the man in the street who must pay, firstly as a taypaper where the authorities are concerned, and secondly as a consumer who will bear the higher costs to industry.

Complaints from industry that productivity and competitiveness will suffer under the provisions of environmental protection can by and large be dismissed as unfounded.

"Environmental protection is a direct and indirect impetus to industry to develop new processes and products that are harmless to the environment," said Minister of the Interior Hans Dietrich Genscher in the Bundestag.

The sore spot is still the question of this country's competitiveness with other countries in the light of the varying demands for non-pollutant processes being made here and there.

In these circumstances it was only natural for government representatives in Brussels and on various international committees to move that conservation should be subject a unified international agreement. This is all the more logical since pollution knows no national boundaries, and polluted rivers flow from one country to the next, foul air is carried on the winds across continents.

On the positive side it should be noted that the man-in-the-street is becoming more and more pollution minded. The mass media have done a lot to contribute to this. But we are still a long way away from the day when, for example, the motorist makes no complaint about leaving his car in the garage when the smog alarm sounds.

Ulrich Rosenbaum

(Vorwärts, 23 December 1971)

Expert committee established for anti-pollution

Bonn has called a committee of expe on environmental protection i being. The decree for this was iss recently by Minister of the Inter Hans-Dietrich Genscher. The Cabi committee for environmental matt gave its approval for the committee experts to be set up.

It will be the task of the committee experts to produce a periodical report the state of the environment in t Federal Republic and how Nature measuring up to the threat of pollutio This is to enable all authorities sponsible for the environment and t general public to make judgments on t state of the environment more easily.

The committee of experts on polluti and the environment will be set up at Ministry of the Interior and work conjunction with the committee of e perts for the evaluation of the over economic development.

It will report on new trends a tendencies in the pollution proble bring misjudged actions to light a suggest ways in which these may avoided in future. The committee consist of twelve members at most.

The Minister of the Interior will be to ask the committee to draw up spe reports on various aspects in conjuncti with the ministers represented on competent Cabinet committee.

The committee will consist of peo who have expert knowledge of the vario aspects of environmental protection.

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 29 December 19

■ AUTOMOBILES

Opel Kadett remains on top

The basis of the Kadett series has always been a small 1100 c.c. motor. This is not a modern construction but is one of the least problematical engines that we have. It's performance was increased from 45 to 50 hp. This has undoubtedly improved the car's moods. However, the increased power puts the Kadett in the next bracket up insurance-wise, which may not suit everyone's taste.

Low octane petrol is still suitable, however. The tightened up exhaust emission laws which have now come into force have exacted a penalty where fuel consumption is concerned. Fully loaded and driven hard in city and inter-city traffic our Kadett consumed 11.01 litres over 100 kilometres.

We were somewhat surprised how heavy the car was on petrol but considering it has a top speed of more than 130 kph (about 78 miles per hour) it cannot be said that the 50 hp Kadett is excessively thirsty. In normal traffic conditions it should be possible to do 100 kilometres on ten litres.

The best thing about driving the 50 hp Kadett is the excellent drive. Gear changing is extraordinarily swift and smooth, at least if one pays the extra 100 Marks for the so-called sports gear.

It is also extraordinarily good as far as revs and performance are concerned. In all gears the car is powerful at high revs so that despite its small cylinder capacity it shows considerable temperament. Taking less than 19 seconds from standing to 100 kph it is still a faster starter than the 1600 super Beetle from Wolfsburg.

A new addition to the range came in the autumn of 1971 with the 60 hp Kadett with its 1200 c.c. capacity. The old S motor with its 55 hp disappeared along with the 1100 c.c. SR motor which developed 60 hp with the aid of twin carburettors.

With this boost to the motor the small car from Bochum now takes its place among medium size vehicles. Opel took a long time getting round to increasing the capacity. It almost seemed as through this were no longer possible technically. But now they have carried it out the operation has been a major success. The 60 hp is developed even when the car is not being driven flat out. It is steady and the motor is not excessively loud.

The 60 hp version cuts a particularly fine figure when equipped with Opel automatic transmission. There was never a suspicion that the car was underpowered. We were very enthusiastic about how smooth this automatic transmission was in all changes. Whether the car was unladen or fully laden there was never a severe jolt and even with the accelerator on the floor you had to listen carefully to hear a sound as the gear changed.

This automatic transmission also showed itself at its best in the smallest Opel and is decidedly one of the most successful pieces of mechanics we have ever come up against.

As far as fuel consumption is concerned the 1200 automatic was naturally somewhat thirstier that its 1100 c.c. brother. The carburettor consumed 11.59 litres over 100 kilometres. But two things must be taken into consideration. Over long stretches of our test run which took us a long way into Czechoslovakia the car was not only packed with four adults and the boot stuffed with any number of cases but we also had a roofrack with two more cases strapped on it.

We used the permitted 400 kilogram tare weight to the full and it was clear that with a laden roofrack the car was particularly heavy on petrol especially at higher speeds. Under normal driving conditions even the 1200 should not consume much more than ten litres.

The Opel Kadett has for years been the most successful car [illegible] on the West German market after Volkswagen's Beetle. For more than five years they have been rolling off the production lines in Bochum without any external modifications. This is despite the fact that at times the success of this model seemed to be on the wane. But it has been decided at the Opel headquarters in Rüsselsheim that there will be no drastic alterations to the model although plans for its successor have been under lock and key at Opel HQ for some time. In true European style it was decided to make technical improvements and developments and details were changed without any revolutionary alteration to the first production model. But the 1972 model has been subjected to considerable modifications as regards performance. Both basic models which were tested over 5,000 kilometres are more attractive than previous models.

(Photo: Opel)

What particularly pleased us about the Kadett after a long absence from it was the suspension. In recent years there has been a decided improvement in this. For those who rejected the Kadett in the past because of the simplicity of its suspension we would recommend they give it another try.

The suspension has, since we last tested the Kadett, been made absolutely reliable in conjunction with radial ply tyres. This not only applies to the acoustic problems that came with a change to radial ply tyres but also to the overall road-holding performance of the car.

Whether laden or empty the Kadett is at least one degree better in its road-holding performance than one would believe from its suspension. Once again this is proof positive that with simple means and simple construction a lot can be achieved.

The improvement requires an additional investment in the car of about 250 Marks. Opel have kept to their tradition of bringing every model into the world naked as a new-born baby and putting all possible extras on the optional list. So the standard Kadett is still offered with simple cross ply tyres of the narrowest kind and ordinary drum brakes.

One of the most rewarding optional extras available for the Kadett is radial ply tyres, particularly in conjunction with extra stabilisers which are also an optional



extra. Some of the worst vagaries of the car's construction are neutralised.

Of course the Kadett cannot hide the fact that it does not have independent suspension on all four wheels, but even with a fixed axle performance is good. Actually it is depressing that Opel put every improvement to the suspension on the custom-made list and expect the motorist to pay through the nose for it.

It is worth mentioning in any case that this general recommendation for radial ply tyres on the Kadett applies fully to steel radial by tyres. The Michelin X on out test car once again proved their unique all-round characteristics, which make this brand of tyre worth recommending. The long life of these tyres makes them a worthwhile investment in the long run.

The body work of the Kadett has never sent anyone into raptures. Its high mounting is far from contemporary. The whole design is devoid of aesthetic inspiration. But the sales success of this car proves that you can live with it.

There is room for four adults, which is to be expected in this class of car. What makes it the greatest rival of the Beetle is above all the luggage space it offers, which the Wolfsburg small car is so sparing with.

In this respect the Kadett almost exaggerates. When you open the luggage compartment the amount of space is quite amazing. There is enough room for holiday baggage for four weeks.

Although the baggage space design leaves room for improvement and is encumbered with the petrol tank and the spare wheel the amount of room for baggage in this vehicle is of an order that would not be so easy to find elsewhere.

Fixtures and fittings in the standard model are, needless to say, sparse. Externally too Opel does everything to lure the prospective buyer to the more profitable Kadett L. On this score each must make his own decision.

What is pleasing about all models is the quality of the workmanship. It would be difficult to find another small car with such good finishing and which is so functional to drive. The standard of quality in this respect shows signs of long years of observing what is happening in Wolfsburg.

The Kadett is today one of the most important cars made in West Germany. It is no beauty, technically it has not had a fortune lavished on it and its finishing may not be most stylish. Nor is its price nowadays particularly low.

On the contrary, to have the car with any sort of reasonable finish and the minimum of extras it is difficult to get change out of 7,000 Marks. It is the performance of the car and its running that makes the Kadett more attractive than ever. In general use it should give good service for years with bearable running costs.

We stick by this judgment even taking into consideration the ingeniously built foreign competitors in the same class. For they all offer two things to only a limited extent: quality and reliability.

Considering how rapidly the costs of keeping and repairing a car are rising it is likely that in the years to come more and more motorists will base their decision on what car to buy on running costs and will be prepared to make a few compromises with regard to technical construction. High on their list should be the Opel Kadett.

Peter Klinkenberg

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 24 December 1971)

ON THE ROAD

Sound barrier

For the first time in this country a major city has taken steps to cut down the menace of traffic noise in the form of a noise reducing wall.

In Cologne, where the new city autobahn to the south touches on a quiet residential quarter a four-hundred-metre long sound absorbing wall has been erected. The wall is 4.5 metres high (about 14 ft).

It was manufactured by the firm Gerd D. Maibach in Eislingen/Fils, which specialises in such constructions. The wall is built of sandwich elements consisting of slabs impregnated with a mineral substance. On the reverse side is a sheet of PVC foil which acts as a sound absorber.

The wall is designed to fit into the landscape well and be pleasing to the eye. Plants are to be placed along it so that it will soon be integrated into a "green zone".

It is thought that the wall will reduce traffic din by fifteen decibels, which should seem to the human ear like a fifty per cent noise reduction.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 8 December 1971)

Lead knocked

ADAC, the motoring club, has recommended motorists to avoid revving up their engines to the full from January 1972 onwards. Their recommendation follows the decision taken by the Bundestag in June last that from 1 January onwards all petrol sold at garages in this country should have a lead content of no more than 0.4 grams per litre as a measure towards avoiding pollution of the atmosphere.

Motor manufacturers now fear that high compression engines will knock at high speeds and could be damaged. ADAC has advised the motor industry to test the new low-lead-content petrol immediately and issue advice on how cars should be driven to minimise damage.

Manufacturers should, in the view of the ADAC, agree to modify motors in whatever way is necessary, such as altering the timing, without cost to the motorist.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 28 December 1971)

Wild success

Electrified fences, placed at eleven different stretches along autobahns in this country by the West German motoring club ADAC helped to cut down the number of accidents caused by wildlife straying on to the roads by 92 per cent last year.

This "sensational success", says the ADAC marks the outstanding achievement of the first phase of this experiment. As a result the ADAC declares that electrified fences are the "only effective means" of cutting down the toll on the roads caused by animals crossing, a menace that accounts for no less than 300,000 pileups every year in this country.

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 12 December 1971)

First aid

Cars in the Federal Republic must from 1 January 1972 onwards be equipped with a first-aid kit. By the end of the year it will be required that all first-aid chests conform to a legally required standard.

This regulation has already been in operation since January 1970 for all newly registered cars and from the beginning of 1971 for all cars taking the TÜV roadworthiness test.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 28 December 1971)

■ DRAMA

The theatre in 1971 was rather depressing

KielerNachrichten

A look back at the 1971 drama season in the German-speaking world will alarm the general observer of the theatrical world as well as the theatres that draw up their accounts at the end of the calendar year.

Local quarrels have also had their effect in many places. In Munich the crisis surrounding Heinar Kipphardt and the choice of general theatre manager for 1973 has been played up too much causing a practically irreparable crisis of confidence with audiences and members of the ensemble.

Hans Lietzau's resignation from Hamburg's Deutsches Schauspielhaus has led to a decline that may be halted when Ivan Nagel takes over as general theatre manager.

In Bremen the unconventional and controversial, though vital and stimulating Kurt Hübner era is to end, the victim of the stubbornness of Cultural Senator Moritz Thape.

Gerhard Klingenberg, the new director of the Burgtheater, is already meeting opposition though he has only just announced his intention of leading this venerable establishment from the ghetto of infertile conservatism.

In West Berlin the Schaubühne am Halleschen Ufer under Peter Stein and its collective leadership is already embarrassing the city council. The drama it puts on is exciting though it has a political aim and attacks the existing order of things.

But the Schaubühne managed to persuade the council to continue subsidising it and the crisis has not affected the theatre's artistic success. Peter Stein's production of *Peer Gynt* was one of 1971's best productions if not *the* best although it was far removed from Ibsen and served as a vehicle of subtle agitation.

But the actual source of alarm is not the crises that have been listed here but the incredibly small number of worthwhile new plays or memorable productions put on during the year.

Theatre crises and scandals have often led to good work or prepared the way memorable productions but this was not the case in the past twelve months apart from the few exceptions like the Peter Stein production already mentioned.

Perhaps one of the reasons is the element of insecurity that protesting young people of today would like to bring into cultural life (and indeed not without understandable motives and arguments that are convincing in theory at least). When all is said and done, this has led not to genuine self-examination but all too frequently to artistic self-denial.

Clichés, taboos, customs, organisation and methods are no longer the only factors under examination. Many theatre people see no point in continuing to serve in their traditional roles and imagine that the function they are meant to perform is completely different, namely one that is directly linked with politics.

The German-language premiere of James Saunders' discussion piece *Games* in Zurich was characteristic of a state of affairs that seems to be general throughout Europe.



Scene from Peter Stein's production of *Peer Gynt* (Photo: Ilse Buhs)

The four young actors in this action-theatre style play read a Reuter report on the My Lai trial and began to discuss whether they should continue to stand around the apron cracking jokes or edifying people or whether they should not personally involve themselves in something they recognise as political necessity in view of the great distress found throughout the word.

The opposition expressed by an elderly critic in the subsequent discussion was the result not of political indifference (the critic had himself experienced terror and persecution) but of the generation gap.

"Actors are there to perform a role, that is their profession," the critic claimed. "If they expound their own problems and complexes on stage they are not of interest as actors. That would no longer be theatre. Theatre interprets the sense of life but it cannot claim to be life itself."

These opposing views may illustrate the misproportion between the unconventional, though often inexpert theatrical work of many committed playwrights, directors and performers and the hopes and expectations that even a contemporary audience has of the theatre.

Political plays unpopular

Statistics produced by the West German Stage Association show plainly that works involving political discussion are rarely to be found any more at the head of the list of most-performed items. Unproblematic entertainment has now come to the fore. Committed playwrights and directors will have to face up to this fact and not abuse their audience.

It is significant for the 1971 malaise that two plays like Peter Weiss' *Hölderlin* and David Storey's semi-Absurd *Home* have been performed most times during the current season.

Despite its many elements of the Absurd and the Experimental *Hölderlin* is culinary and uncomplicated. But this play, like *Home*, would only have been of secondary importance in the years when Max Frisch premieres, Kortner productions and Peter Zadek provocations made such a furore.

The 1971 *Experimenta* in Frankfurt was symptomatic of the decline of the avant-garde and experimental. All what reputable playwrights like Ludwig Harig, Alf Poss and Konrad Wünsche served up were pale imitation collages that deserve little attention.

Experiments to provide drama for people unacquainted with the theatre – scripted or improvised social criticism was performed in working-class areas, sometimes during breaks from work – usually failed because of the apathy shown by the workers who were intended to take interest.

If anything at all managed to create any sort of interest during the past twelve months, it was the work coming from Austria and Bavaria that came into the category of new realism.

Peter Handke cannot be included in this category but his *Ritt über den Bodensee* premiered at the Schaubühne am Halleschen Ufer in West Berlin is because of its linguistic criticism no more than a result of what is today called the Graz School.

Wolfgang Bauer, the successful playwright of *Magic Afternoon* and *Change*, wrote a new play entitled *Silvester – oder das Massaker im Hotel Sacher* that played a cheap trick on his fans among audiences and theatre managers (those that admire him uncritically yet are only there to be mercilessly exploited) by expanding the compulsion to produce plays into a cheap farce.

Turning to the Bavarians who have recently made a name for themselves, Rainer Werner Fassbinder and Martin Sperr provided little sensational in their *Blut am Hals der Katze* performed in Nuremberg or *Münchner Freiheit* at the Düsseldorf Schauspielhaus. Their work could better be described as artificial.

But notice must be taken of two new talented men of the theatrical world whose full dramatic and literary potential may not be revealed for some years yet. It can only be hoped that they will not fall victim to the impatience shown by theatrical bosses in Wolfgang Bauer's new play.

Franz Xaver Kroetz, the director of the Tegernsee Alpenländisches Volkstheater, produced two of his plays – *Hartnäckig* und *Heimarbeit* – in Munich and his direct, psychologically unavoidable depiction of social conditions led critics to ponder his future development if nothing else.

The same is true of Viennese playwright Peter Turrini with *Rattenjagd*, his drastic exposure of the affluent society performed at Vienna's Volkstheater, or his choral panopticum *Zero Zero* performed at the Vienna Festival with its mixture of sex and terror on the one hand and love from afar on the other.

But I would present the award for the undiscovered play of 1971 to *Spiele der Macht*, a psychologically credible parable about the real forces of the instinct for power by Swiss writer Walter Vogt. This play, performed in the Rampe, Berne, reveals the source of tyranny. It is to be found in the individual psyche.

Klaus Colberg

(Kieler Nachrichten, 27 December 1971)

Plans for 1972 Berlin Festival announced

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The 1972 Berlin Festival to be h from 10 September to 10 Octo will be opened by a Schubert con performed by the Berlin Philharmo Orchestra under Karl Böhm. The Be Philharmonic will also play under Ka jan, Kertesz (with Nathan Milstein soloist) and the young American co ductor Michel Tabachnik.

The NHK Orchestra of Japan perform on 13 and 14 September Hiroyuki Iwaki and with the Kor violinist Kyung-Wha Chung as soloist. London Philharminic Orchestra can heard under Bernhard Haitnik on 19 20 September.

The Stockholm Dramatic Theatre been invited to perform the Ing Bergmann production of Ibsen's Duck. Negotiations are still being ducted with other foreign drama sembles.

In 1971 the Festival attracted remarkably high figure of 45,000 visit exceeding numbers recorded in previ years and filling the theatres used ninety per cent capacity. As a result this immense public interest the inco from tickets sold exceeded the calculated for this in the original bud

The other festivals arranged for 197 West Berlin are the Theatre Gathe from 13 to 23 May, the Film Festi from 23 June to 4 July and the Festival from 2 to 5 November.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 24 December 1971)

New association fights for theatre people's rights

A "Theatre Action Group '72" set up in Hamburg on 8 Decem 1971 to represent the artistic and interests of conductors, choirmaste directors, stage designers, wardro designers, choreographers and memb of allied theatrical professions.

The provisional executive elected conduct affairs until the first ordin assembly of members is made up drama adviser Hans Eckardt of Ess producer Frieder Lorenz of Münst operatic adviser Irmgard Scharberth fr Hamburg, producer Wilhelm Allgayer Hamburg, stage designer Ekkehard Kr of Lübeck and conductor Wolfg Schmidt from Bremerhaven.

The new association plans to help theatre become more democratic drawing up new forms of organisa and working methods and imp quality of what is put on. Action wil set up to exert influence during negotiations. (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 24 December 1971)

Olympic opera commissioned

Joachim Ludwig, the 38-year-o Munich composer and a pupil Herbert von Karajan, has been co missioned to write an opera for the 197 Olympic Games.

The opera will be entitled *Rashom* and its premiere is planned for Augsbu on 23 August 1972. The libretto is base on the mediaeval Japanese legend a follows the structure of the film of th same name.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 16 December 1971)

■ PROFILE

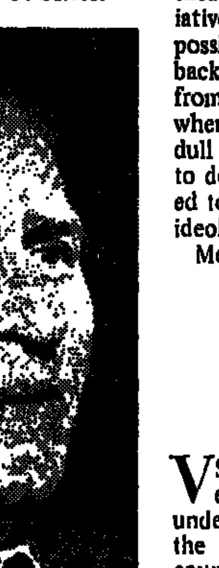
Doyen of the theatre Carl Zuckmayer is 75

Süddeutsche Zeitung

For many people birthdays are a pain in the neck. It has been known for people to disappear without trace on the occasion of their fiftieth, sixtieth, seventieth, seventy-fifth or eightieth birthday and only return when it is all over. Thus they avoid the congratulatory telegrams and the endless calls from friends and well-wishers.

Carl Zuckmayer was not like this on his 75th birthday. He was happy to talk about all he had produced, defended, maintained and been through in the past – successes and failures alike – and was happy to talk about how much he enjoys life and what a good mood he is in.

Among the talents he does not possess obviously are the ability to hate, to be consistently offended and to be bitter.



Carl Zuckmayer (Photo: dpa)

This is the Carl Zuckmayer who was already flourishing in the twenties with *Schinderhannes* and *Katharina Knie*, was praised by Kerr, was a friend of Brecht, emigrated in the Nazi era and then wrote the most successful and most discussed resistance drama *The Devil's General*. He also wrote a melancholy play about the French resistance *Gesang im Feuerofen* and became a best-selling author again with his memoirs *Als wär's ein Stück von mir*.

This is the Carl Zuckmayer who withstood the scorn of the intellectuals for whom he is not strict and basic enough, who came through the changing fashions of the theatre which threatened to make him into a relic of Naturalism, and did not allow these criticisms which drove so many successful writers to desperation or caused them to change their opinions and style opportunistically. He lived through it all and survived it all without being untrue to himself. Even those who have often carped at him must be grateful for this.

As we can see particularly clearly today nothing is more dangerous for the live theatre than when mere personal initiatives, which are in individual cases possible and even worthy, that are neither backed up by artistic potential nor raised from the mundane by theatrical vitality, when simple didactic and mostly deadly dull activities by left wing knowalls begin to dominate the boards which are supposed to represent the world and not simply ideology.

Merely by being himself and not allowing anything to change him, perhaps because he was incapable of doing anything else, Carl Zuckmayer has resisted all false specialisation.

Günter Grass was proud to be able to read his play *Die Plebejer proben den Aufstand* to Zuckmayer and in return received valuable information from him about the young Brecht.

In 1971 probably the greatest actor of our time, Paul Scofield, acted in Zuckmayer's *Captain of Köpenick* at the Old Vic, London.

After so many years of scorning "Dad's theatre" people are now beginning to yearn for it. We should be grateful to the 75-year-old Zuckmayer that he plays the role of father with good humour and is never visibly offended by it.

On the one hand he is mis-cast because he has never been a figure of respect, never a mixture of Goethe and Hindenburg. But on the other hand he has given a courageous example of how someone with total freedom, a total lack of solemnity, with curiosity and with punch could remain true to himself.

Joachim Kaiser

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 27 December 1971)

Writers reject Spiegel survey of their living standards

VS, the society of West German writers, has stated that the investigation undertaken by the Spiegel Institute into the social conditions of writers in this country suffers from inaccuracies, lack of discrimination and errors.

Shortly after the results of this study were published a number of VS members launched into criticism.

Contrary to all expectations the Spiegel Institute came to the conclusion that authors in this country do not in any way suffer from a lower standard of living than the national average, and in fact many are better off. About a quarter of those surveyed have a monthly take-home pay of more than 3,000 Marks and only six per cent earn less than 800 Marks.

Dieter Lattmann, chaiman of the VS, had stated that the average monthly income of freelance authors was around 650 Marks.

In an open letter from the VS to *Spiegel* publisher Rudolf Augstein the society said: "The prosperity of authors, which the Spiegel Institute seems to be going out of its way to demonstrate, is in our experience nowhere like so wide spread."

According to the VS the extraordinary result of the Institute's survey is due to the fact that freelance authors were not sufficiently represented during the course of the investigation, while the many who earn on the side as writers and "make up with appearances on radio and television what they cannot earn from writing" were in the majority.

In addition, the VS accuses, the picture was distorted by quoting in several cases a joint income where an author might be earning 400 Marks a month and his wife 1,600 Marks in an office job, and the quoted figure of 2,000 Marks could hardly be said to describe the financial position of an author let alone his psychological state.

The VS also vehemently rejects the assertion that of the ten to fifteen million Marks to be raised from the library rake-off when it is introduced eight million will be swallowed up by administrative costs. They state that a nought could be knocked off this figure. It annoys the VS that this survey may hamper the introduction of the library due.

(Handelsblatt, 21 December 1971)

Libraries note boom in non-fiction

Every year interest in learning or extending professional skills is increasing. Figures issued by lending libraries bear this out. Almost every other book lent out to adults is a work of non-fiction. About one in two of the young people, apprentices, scholars and students who are taking vocational training borrows books on theoretical further education in his own chosen or prospective career.

Librarians state that the greatest demand in the non-fiction sphere is for books on technology, the natural sciences and mathematics. In the 55 public libraries in Hamburg this type of book comprises more than 25 per cent of the demand for non-fiction. The picture is the same in almost all other major cities in West Germany according to an exchange of opinion among librarians.

The second most popular group of non-fiction works comes under the heading of psychology, education, politics, government and economics. About one in five book borrowers called for a work on the social sciences and history, about one in ten economic subjects including economic theory.

Several libraries have decided to expand their non-fiction section, but despite this it is not always possible to give borrowers what they want immediately. Readers often have to be content with going on a waiting list.

As far as non-fiction is concerned librarians are finding that children at technical schools and high schools as well as students are coming of their own accord to public libraries. In the case of apprentices with only elementary school training some encouragement is often needed.

Readership of non-fiction is not confined to those in the early stages of learning a trade. People who have been in their jobs for years are coming in ever increasing numbers. The desire to change their job is always an impetus.

As can be seen from the list of borrowers the main reason for the boom in non-fiction is that in so many professions new developments are coming on at such a pace that employees feel they must remain on the ball or be left by the wayside.

Heinz Henke

(Kieler Nachrichten, 29 December 1971)

Wiesbaden festival assured of financial support

KielerNachrichten

Financial support has been found for the 1972 May festival in Wiesbaden, according to burgomaster Rudi Schmitt. The city authorities have granted 240,000 Marks, 80,000 Marks have come from the Federal state of Hesse and 20,000 Marks from the central government.

Artistes from eleven nations will be on the programme for the 1972 festival, including the Warsaw and Vienna State opera companies. The Warsaw opera will be performing Verdi's *Otello* and *Don Carlos* as well as a scenic collage based on the Romeo and Juliet theme with singers, actors and dancers.

The Vienna State opera will perform Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* and *The Seraglio*.

Wiesbaden's Staatstheater is presenting a gala evening with Wagner's *Tannhäuser*, for which they have been able to sign up Grace Bumbry.

The world-famous Indian dance *Kathakali* will be performed by an Indian dance group. London's Open Air Theatre will perform the Charles Marowitz production of Shakespeare's *Othello* – the premier of this work.

Stars from the Moscow Bolshoi Theatre will be singing Verdi's *Il Trouvatore*.

Also on the programme will be a guest appearance of the Berlin Reichskabarett with the horror parody *Dracula*, a pantomime for children *Teller* with two clowns and an evening of chansons.

Negotiations are still going on with West Berlin's Schiller Theater and an East Berlin theatre.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 28 December 1971)

Awards for best film scripts

Awards for scripts valued at 200,000 and 300,000 Marks have been made this year by the Bonn Ministry of the Interior for the following projects:

Der Fehler (The mistake) by Peter Fleischmann from a script by Martin Walser, based on the book of the same name by the Greek author Samarakis.

Anzeichen von Gewaltanwendung (Signs of violence) by Roland Klick which follows the "development" of a young man's career from car thief to murderer.

Georges' Branch by Christian Blackwood, the story of a young German woman who marries an American and follows him to Kentucky, to one of the poorest tracts of land in America, and following his death in a mining accident has to fight tooth and nail to obtain a pension.

Werwölfe (Werewolves) by Werner Klett, the story of a gang of young people who are drafted into the Hitler Youth in the last days of the War and terrorise a small town in the Harz mountains.

Aus einem deutschen Leben – Kommandant in Auschwitz (Part of a German life story – Commandant in Auschwitz) by Theodor Kotulla, a film based on the life story of Rudolf Höss between the end of the First World War and the 1930's.

Effie Briest by Rainer Werner Fassbinder, based on Theodor Fontane.

Berliner Bettwurst by Rosa von Praunheim; *Gelegenheitsarbeit einer Sklavin* (A slavegirl's casual labour) by Alexander Kluge, the story of a woman who would like to be independent and *Output* by Volker Vogeler, a crime story.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 18 December 1971)

EDUCATION

Grading children's school work is a haphazard affair

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

A reader recently wrote to the education journal *Westermanns Pädagogische Beiträge* calling for the end of grading in schools as there was no plausible reason for retaining it.

Teachers, pupils and parents have long been discussing demands of this type. A number of surveys have helped to increase opposition as it has become more and more plain that there can be no objective yardsticks for awarding grades.

A survey conducted by Dr Rudolf Weiss, the head of the Linz Educational Institute, shows that grading is not even objective in mathematics. Teachers will gave varying grades if a pupil has used the correct method but given the wrong answer because of careless mistakes.

Though the grades given by the vast majority of teachers (92 per cent) ranged "only" between two and four, the belief that mathematical calculations are easy to mark has been shattered.

Even conscientious teachers judge equal performances very subjectively. The teacher's generosity or pettiness will influence the yardsticks he uses in forming a judgment.

Children are often judged according to factors that have nothing to do with their performance. Subjective elements such as the pupil's outward appearance, his conduct, his speech or, as has been proved, even his parents' social position can play their part.

Work that would be graded unsatisfactory in higher streams might well be given an "adequate" or "satisfactory" in lower streams.

If mathematics is so hard to grade, should not teachers having to judge a German essay throw in the towel? Dr Gottfried Schröter, a professor at Kiel College of Education, has been dealing with this question for a long time now. The results of his work were published recently in a paperback entitled *Die ungerechte Aufsatzzensur* (Unjust essay grading).

The book, published by Kamp of Bochum, reports that over ten per cent of the 617 essays marked by thirteen teachers received five different grades. Six essays were given grades between one and six and comments ranged from "original" to "gutter language".

But Schröter, like Weiss, wants grades to be retained despite the anomalies of the system. Replying to a critic who wants grades to be replaced by reports, Schröter claimed that this experiences showed that the differences between the comments could be as great as those between the grades.

He cited Oswald Beck, the writer of a two-volume work on essay-writing: "We do not believe that we can or should scrap the grading of essays until practical alternatives have been tested."

Schröter adds that grading along with comments is at present the most siutable way of satisfying the right of every pupil to know what his performance is really like. But he demands that teachers should also recognise how restricted the grading system is and not place too great a store on grades and comments. He also demands more freedom in the writing of school essays. Schröter has found that the limits to which high school pupils are confined when writing essays are particularly narrow. From about the age of fifteen onwards pupils are only allowed to analyse, review, compare, take a position on political issues or literary statements and write profound words. Schröter asks why they are disputed the right of treating an appropriate subject in any way they see fit, the right any writer will claim. When can a pupil be inventive, write a farce or a sad story, make up a narrative, in short be himself?

Gerhard Weise
(Der Tagesspiegel, 17 December 1971)

First steps in music-making

Maricio Kagel of Argentina, composer and film and dra... director, has lived in Cologne since 1957. He is head of t... department of musique nouvelle at the city's Rhenish College... Music, an appointment he took over from Karl-Heinz Sto... hausen in 1969. One of his latest interests is encouraging sm... children to experiment with noise (Kagel deliberately shuns t... term 'musical instrument'). As Kagel will be responsible for t... musical side of the Olympic kindergarten at the Olympic Games... Munich later this year it will be interesting to see how t... experiments progress. (Photo: Camillo Fi...)

THE SCIENCES

Heidelberg U. team tests additive dangers

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

Heidelberg University claims that a three-man medical team has found that concentrated forms of biologically active detergent endanger lungs and bronchial passages.

The investigation was started after a patient had been admitted to a Heidelberg hospital with bronchial asthma, the man's first attack of this kind.

As the patient, who had never been seriously ill before, worked in a detergents factory and was obviously allergic to certain washing powders it was suspected that his asthma could be traced to biologically active additives such as enzymes.

The medical team referred in its conclusions to a survey conducted in Britain. Among the 271 workers at a detergents factory 42 cases of asthma and ten cases of nasal catarrh were recorded as well as several cases of skin allergies.

In experiments with guinea-pigs the Heidelberg doctors found that inhaling large quantities of biologically active detergent additives could lead to shortage of breath, nose-bleeds and violent attacks of coughing.

Post-mortems held on the animals showed marked changes in the lung such as the penetration of blood into the vesicles, deformities in lung structure and a wasting away of lung tissue.

These marked symptoms could, the doctors claimed, be traced back to the large doses of detergent additives with which the guinea-pigs were treated. Long-term experiments should now provide some information on the less marked but longer-lasting effects of biologically active detergent additives. But the medical team claims that the harmful effects of these substances is already apparent on those people who have to work on or with them. Doctors already recommend that babies' clothes and nappies should not be washed with biologically active washing powders. The results of the Heidelberg tests show that it is urgently necessary to introduce protective measures for those people directly involved in the production of this type of washing powder.

As has already been reported, the manufacturers of enzyme detergents were recently forced by the Ministry of Health to indicate on the packets of their products that they contain enzymes.

Detergent manufacturers reject claims that biologically active additives cause skin allergies and point to investigations conducted in the United States.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 24 December 1971)



The lung shows its paces

This airtight metal chamber developed by Siemens in conjunction with a team of doctors contains measuring equipment to help in the early diagnosis of lung and respiratory complaints. The apparatus draws a graph of lung performance and its operation is computer controlled. (Photo: Siemens)

Laser beams aid cell research

Adapting their pigmentation to the intensity and colour structure of their immediate environment is one of the most effective weapons that many marine creatures possess against the constant threat of being devoured.

There are varying views on the biological mechanism involved in this camouflage technique caused by the intercellular shifting of melanosomes and melanophores.

Many scientists believe that a gradual spread of cellular plasma from the periphery to the centre of the cell is responsible for the concentration of pigment.

Some scientists believe that the movement of melanosomes can be explained by plasma streams or contractions of a filaceous network.

Another group of researchers believes that the change is caused by an electrophoretic process. An intercellular electric field prompts the negative-charged melanosomes to move.

All these theories are supported by experimental observations. No final decision has yet been reached because of the difficulties involved in all research concerned with microscopic processes.

German scientist J. Bereiter-Hahn of Frankfurt University's department of cinematic cell research recently shone more light on to the subject of this protective mechanism with the help of a pulse laser beam.

With the modern intensive laser beam that concentrates its light on a few millionths of a square millimetre and has proved such a boon to the field of medicine Bereiter-Hahn managed to conduct operations on pigment cells and, from the results, draw his conclusions on the mechanisms involved in the movement of melanosomes.

Bereiter-Hahn described his method in the recent issue of a medical journal. With the aid of a microscope and a laser beam he was able to separate tiny areas of the melanosomes from the cell's pigment substance without destroying the cell as a whole. The damaged melanosomes did not concentrate when the others did.

DIE WELT

This proved that the melanosomes were not moved passively by plasmatic changes in the cell. But this does not confirm the electrophoretic theory especially as shifts in pigment were observed when there was no intercellular electric field.

One firmly-established fact seems to be that an organisation centre responsible for the movement of melanosomes can be found in the centre of the pigment cell. All movement of pigmentation was halted as soon as this central area was destroyed by laser beam.

As this organisation centre, whatever its nature, plays an important role in the distribution of chromosomes to the new-born cells during the process of cell division, it is fair to assume that the cell structures, visible under an electron microscope, that play a part in the movement of chromosomes are also partially responsible for the shifting of melanosomes. Further examinations with laser beams of different frequencies are yet to be conducted.

The layman may be less interested by the scientific results of the various research projects than by the fact that the laser beam can now be used in a large number of research branches ten years after it was first discovered.

Klaus Bruns
(Die Welt, 22 December 1971)

New reanimation unit for babies

Professor Kurt Semm and Dr Dieter Kress of Kiel have developed a new type of reanimation unit for new-born babies.

Professor Semm, head of Kiel University Women's Hospital and Midwifry Training Institute, claims that the reanimation unit has proved its worth in twelve months of hospital tests.

Infant mortality has been reduced and there has also been a decline in cases of brain damage caused by the lack of oxygen.

According to Professor Semm, the reanimation unit consists of a plastic bowl kept at a temperature of 37 degrees through liquid heat. There is also a warm air shield over the bowl to protect the babies under treatment from a drop in body heat that is dangerous so soon after birth.

The reanimation unit has at its disposal an oxygen supply, a digital clock, an ultra-violet lamp to counteract germs and vacuum equipment for use if there is any amniotic fluid in the baby's windpipe. Drugs and injections are also available.

Three or four doctors can work simultaneously at the operating table. Professor Semm believes that the plastic bowl in which the baby lies is far better than the normal sort of cradle.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 10 December 1971)

Smokers more liable to heart attacks, medical team maintains

KielerNachrichten

Non-smokers can eat what they want as long as they do not exceed their normal weight, Professor Dörken of Hamburg found when examining the main risk factors in heart attacks.

Reporting on this departure from traditional thinking, a local medical journal in Hesse has provided interesting details about the Professor's work. Smoking, according to him, is the main risk factor in heart attacks.

For the past twenty years doctors have looked upon excess weight, high blood pressure, a high cholesterol content and smoking as risk factors of equal importance.

It was recognised that each of these factors clearly increased the danger of a heart attack. Doctors believed that the more risk factors that were found in a person, the greater the possibility there was of him suffering a heart attack.

But there is a much closer connection between smoking and heart attacks than with any other risk factor, Professor Dörken found after his examination of 218 male heart patients aged between 19 and 44 and 35 female patients between 27 and 44.

Of the 218 men who had had a heart attack only two were non-smokers. This is a proportion of one per cent. The patients had smoked an average of 25.9 cigarettes a day. Almost all the young female patients who had had heart attacks were heavy smokers. Only two had not smoked.

Professor Dörken found that 98.4 per cent of the heart patients of both sexes were smokers or former smokers. Only eight per cent of these young patients had high blood pressure, only four per cent were diabetics, 35 per cent were overweight and twenty per cent had a high cholesterol level.

Recent medical evidence shows that the cholesterol level is increased by smoking as well as by a diet rich in calories. Professor Dörken is convinced that earlier studies of risk factors involved in heart attacks overstressed the high consumption of fats and sugar and did not pay enough attention to smoking.

Albert Bechtold
(Kieler Nachrichten, 22 December 1971)

Too few industrial specialists

A new law that will probably come into force on 1 April opens up new professional prospects for doctors. All firms above a certain size will then be obliged to employ industrial doctors and safety technicians.

But at present there is a shortage of this type of specialist. It is estimated that there are 42,000 too few safety technicians and a similar shortage of industrial doctors.

Giving these figures, a spokesman for the Cologne-area Metal Industry Employers Association claimed that universities and technical universities had failed completely in this field.

There was nothing else industries could do but train safety technicians and industrial doctors themsleves, he added. This is what is planned in the Cologne area.

(Handelsblatt, 28 December 1971)

■ OUR WORLD

Skat is not just a common game of chance

When three people sit down together in this country they play *Skat* (a card game peculiar to Germany). If anywhere in the world you see three people playing *skat* you can be sure they are Germans, according to Johannes Fabian, 60, who should know since he is president of the Skat Society and vice-president of the 'skat court of appeal' in Bielefeld.

For 175 years skat has been Germany's national game. Johannes Fabian said: "The game regularly gives pleasure to the twenty million from Sylt to Watzmann. The game revolves round which of the three will play against the other two. The one who thinks he has the best cards tries to outbid the others."

According to a survey carried out by the Skat Society sixty per cent of men and fifteen per cent of women sit at the table in such a position that the other players cannot see what cards they have in their hand.

Johannes Fabian said: "The game is well known in East Germany, but people over there don't get as much pleasure at the game as we do."

Herr Fabian has become a skat master. In 1959 he was named individual champion. He has played since he was eleven.

Statisticians have calculated that there are 2,753,294,408,504,640 possible deals in skat, which makes many skat-players claim that skat is just as much a game of chance as roulette. They maintain that if you don't get good cards you cannot win. On the other hand Johannes Fabian claims: "Skat is a game that demands plenty of intelligence, good memory, an ability to concentrate and a vivid imagination."

Nothing can upset players quicker than a wretched player. Johannes Fabian said: "That's worse than having bad cards."

The Skat Society has drawn up a 48-page booklet listing what is allowed and what is disallowed during play.

According to the rules a fair player should make no comment, make no gestures of displeasure and after play not indulge in post mortems.

The Skat Society, founded in 1899 in Altenburg, Thüringia, now has its headquarters in Bielefeld. Johannes Fabian said: "More than 900 clubs are associated with us and we have 13,000 club members. Regularly they play off against one another for the championship."

The skat court of appeal does not meet very often. Herr Fabian said: "Points of dispute are all covered in our archives and can be disposed of by consultation with the achives."

But he has most of the answers in his head. He is not annoyed when he is dragged out of bed in the middle of the night to settle a point of dispute. He is called by his colleagues in the local court in Bielefeld where he works, the reckoning machine, and with some justification. Every year he has to send out 140,000 accounts for people in Bielefeld, Detmold and Paderborn.

Several VIPs have taken a course in playing skat with Johannes Fabian. He says that he has given advice about the game to Foreign Minister Walter Scheel, Richard Stücklen and Wolfgang Mischnick.

Wolfgang Heissner

(Welt am Sonntag, 2 January 1972)



Lauritz Lauritzen, Housing Minister (left) playing skat with friends (Photo: Georg

Greetings from the postman

Thirty-six families in Lichterfelde, a district of West Berlin, have had an experience that is just like a fairytale. A 33-year-old postman has given them all a surprise during the festive season of Christmas.

Instead of calling on the houses in his round and expecting to be given a "Christmas box" he has reversed things and has had delivered to each house a richly filled presentation basket. To each basket a small note was attached which read: "Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year – your postman".

The recipients of these presents did *not* know, however, that the postman is a bachelor and that he has been saving all the year to be able to give the gifts.

Modestly he said: "It's nothing to make a fuss about. I wanted to give a little pleasure to the people I visit every day of the year."

The postman's presents have succeeded in doing this. Appreciatively the head of one family said: "This is a rare thing. But it shows that even in a large city good neighbourliness can still exist. Who would have believed it!"

The presentation baskets contained wine, champagne, coffee and sweets and chocolates.

(Münchner Merkur, 27 December 1971)

Holiday ad

The following advertisement appeared recently in the *Hamburger Abendblatt:* My wife needs a holiday. Who would look after me, 44, and our home for from three to four weeks in January? We have a bungalow with three sons, 17, 14 and 11 (minirocker) and a daughter, 10 (sweet). They are all independent and against authority but they must be fed from time to time. Applicants must be female and with plenty of courage. Age unimportant. Salary as demanded.

(Die Welt, 27 December 1971)

Girls favour soldie[rs] with long hair

Four hundred and fifteen femal[e rea]ders of the soldiers' magazine S[oldaten]kurier published for the Third ... in Koblenz have given vent to their ... on the burning question of the lengt[h of] soldier's hair, a problem which ha[s] ... ited those who are in the service ... those who are not.

Last October they were asked b[y the] editors of *Soldatenkurier* what s[ort of] hair style best suited the boys in uni[form]. To help them in their decisio[n the] newspaper printed a hall of fame wi[th] snapshots, mostly head and should[er, of] soldiers with differing lenghts of h[air]. They wore various kinds of ... clothes, uniform and sports equipme[nt], in fact every kind of clothing tha[t one] would come across in service life. ... none of them wore the infamous ha[ir] ...

The December issue printed the ... of the ladies' choice. The largest g[roup], 37.1 per cent, came out in fav[our of] moderately long hair. Shoulder-l[ength] locks and beard found favour with ... per cent of the girls.

The tried and tested army short-[back]-and-sides only found favour with ... cent of the women and a similarly ... group voted for hair down to the ...

Small minorities came out in favo[ur of] strange combinations such as mode[rately] long hair complete with beard (1.4 per cent) and the Afro-look (1.2 per cent).

Some of the girls, soldiers' w[ives], fiancées and girlfriends, were not co[ntent] with just choosing a hair style: [they] went directly for the lads shown in ... pictures. One said: "The soldier ... shoulder-length hair and sidewhisk[ers is] super." Another said: "My name is ... and I would like to get to know ... 28."

There was so much subjectivity ... replies sent in by the women tha[t it is] doubtful whether this survey wi[ll be] taken into account on the Hardthöhe, ... Ministry of Defence, as the basis fo[r the] next hair-style regulation issued to ... armed forces.

These friendly greetings are more ... matched by a large number of express[ions] of disgust: "Get back to the trees, ... apes!" Or: "Germany can be truly ash[am]ed of itself . . ." and "You look ... mediaeval brigands. Send you lot o[n a] five-kilometre run and you would die ... heart-failure!"

A middle-of-the-road, philosphical ... calm voice may be of the most help ... the Dedence Minister, saying: "It's bet[ter] for them to have long hair than none ... all."

Christian Potyk...

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 28 December 19..

Willi Birkelbach, the man who is taking on the computers

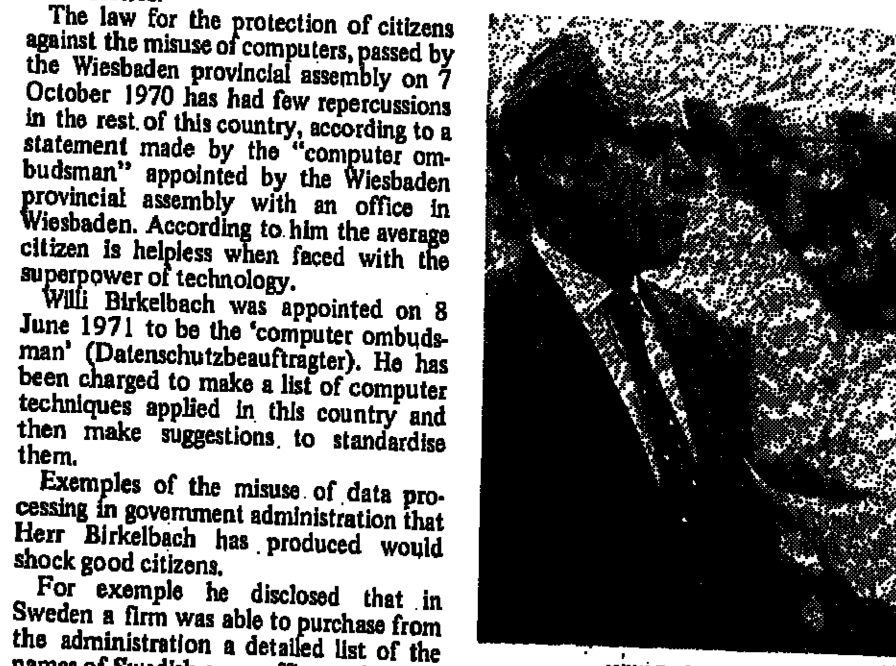
Alone and single-handed, operating from a mini-office in Hesse, a one-time State Secretary and trade unionist is battling against the superpower of data processing Willi Birkelbach is trying to protect people in this country from the errors of the computer which are occurring with growing frequency in government offices.

The law for the protection of citizens against the misuse of computers, passed by the Wiesbaden provincial assembly on 7 October 1970 has had few repercussions in the rest of this country, according to a statement made by the "computer ombudsman" appointed by the Wiesbaden provincial assembly with an office in Wiesbaden. According to him the average citizen is helpless when faced with the superpower of technology.

Willi Birkelbach was appointed on 8 June 1971 to be the 'computer ombudsman' (Datenschutzbeauftragter). He has been charged to make a list of computer techniques applied in this country and then make suggestions to standardise them.

Exemples of the misuse of data processing in government administration that Herr Birkelbach has produced would shock good citizens.

For exemple he disclosed that in Sweden a firm was able to purchase from the administration a detailed list of the names of Swedish army officers who were in financial difficulties.



Willi Birkelbach

(Photo: dpa)

The military regime in Greece was also able to pull off a considerable coup. An approach was made to the Swedish authorities asking for a list of names and addresses of Greeks in exil anti the regime. The Swedish authorities became suspicious and refused. A little later the addresses were indeed hand over – via a private firm pretending to promote Greek foodstuffs on sale in Sweden.

In the course of his work reviewing data processing in Hesse Willi Birkelbach has collected together a mountain of forms and questionnaires that have to be fed into a computer for analysis.

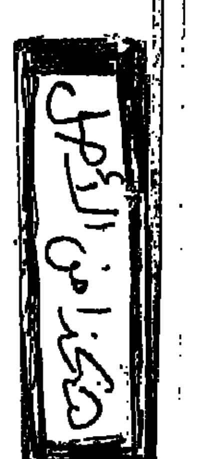
Herr Birkelbach's problem is to track down when the dangers in computerisation begin. For instance a survey dealing with divorce in Hesse collected not only the statistics dealing with this matter but personal details more than mere names and addresses of the people involved.

Herr Birkelbach's problem begins at this point. He is anxious to introduce regulations that makes it obligatory to feed information of this sort into the computer anonymously.

He is fighting for the citizen's right to refuse to provide personal details in future surveys of this sort. He is also anxious that "safety measures" should be promulgated that make it an offence to extract personal details from material fed into a computer.

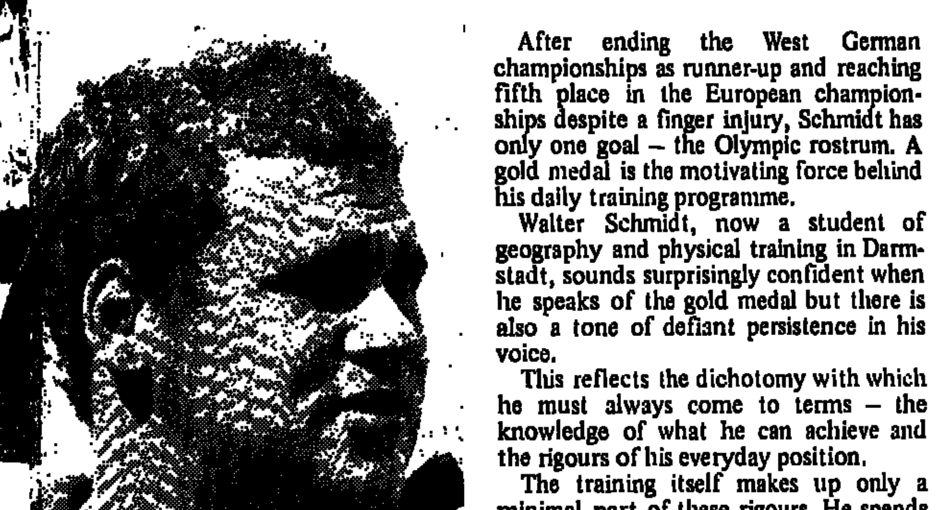
Eberhard Müller

(Neue Hannoversche Presse, 23 December 1971)



■ SPORT

Hammer-thrower Walter Schmidt continues on his lonely way



(Photo: Archiv/Nordbild)

There are days on which Walter Schmidt is fed up with his austere training programme with its throwing exercises and the merciless rhythm of movements he has repeated at least a thousand times.

It is at moments like this that he asks what is the sense of it all. The energy required is so great that a layman would be unable to find any reason for it.

Walter Schmidt is on the constant look-out for the right answer. He does not take refuge in pompous idealism. He does not idealise his work – and it is work – by pointing out the pleasure he feels in movement or the camaraderie he finds amongst other sportsmen.

Of course he wants his perfomances to make everything worthwhile. But he is also driven by the urge to show opponents, the envious and sceptics what he really can do. And there is an adequate supply of opponents and sceptics.

On 4 September 1971 Walter Schmidt, then only just past 23, set up a sensational world record in hammer-throwing in his Black Forest hometown of Lahr whose best claim to fame previously was the oddly-titled *Hinkender Bote*, one of the most traditional of German newspapers. The hundred-metre measuring tape recorded 76.4 metres.

That makes Schmidt the Federal Republic's only current world record holder in an Olympic discipline for male athletes – apart from hurdler Martin Lauer whose record has still not been beaten.

Schmidt achieved this sensational result at a minor event while the top world-class athletes met in Munich for a type of pre-Olympic tournament. Schmidt's absence was promtly interpreted as cowardice and the record he set up at Lahr was dismissed as a freak.

Schmidt's best performances came at the start of his career when he was either alone or in events with opponents who did not measure up to him. However he seemed to overcome his inhibitions in the pre-Olympic year of 1971.

After ending the West German championships as runner-up and reaching fifth place in the European championships despite a finger injury, Schmidt has only one goal – the Olympic rostrum. A gold medal is the motivating force behind his daily training programme.

Walter Schmidt, now a student of geography and physical training in Darmstadt, sounds surprisingly confident when he speaks of the gold medal but there is also a tone of defiant persistence in his voice.

This reflects the dichotomy with which he must always come to terms – the knowledge of what he can achieve and the rigours of his everyday position.

The training itself makes up only a minimal part of these rigours. He spends two and a half hours on the hammer, throwing it about forty times, runs cross-country in winter, does gymnastics and spends another two and a half hours weight-lifting to strenghten his muscles. He repeats this programme at least five times a week but so does anyone else wanting to belong to the world's best.

His financial situation gives greater cause for alarm. Because of the long hours of training Schmidt must get through he is unable to earn any extra money. Schmidt's father is a civil servant in Lahr and still pays for his son's place in a student hostel.

Schmidt comments that he has depended on his father financially for ten years and does not want to carry on in this way. Grants and the sporting aid scheme are the only alternatives. The sporting aid scheme sends him 650 Marks a month but, though gratefully received, it is not enough to cover all his expenses.

Walter Schmidt supplies revealing figures. Six foot three tall, weighing 290 pounds and with a chest measurement of 54 inches he requires as much food a day as a whole family – three pounds of meat, two to four pounds of fruit and seven or eight pints of milk.

Vitamin pills pose a different type of problem. Following tests at Freiburg University, he fells forced to consume a number of preparations in order for his body to receive its necessary supply of vitamins, calcium and magnesium. "I can't eat twenty pounds of cauliflower a day," Schmidt quips. A month's supply of pills costs as much money as he would need to live on for a week.

"I always have to add my own money," he complains with a note of resignation in his voice. He feels that the sporting aid scheme does not distribute its money fairly. Performance is the major criterion and a person's financial situation is scarcely considered.

Schmidt is unable to buy new clothes as it is. He cannot buy off the peg because of his size and he cannot afford made-to-measure goods. He needs his old car for travelling to his doctor and masseur. "After lifting thirty tons of weights you need to have your muscles massaged, otherwise you wouldn't be able to move out of bed the next morning," Schmidt comments.

Schmidt has been unable to find any other financial support. No industrialist in the Darmstadt area is willing to sponsor him. "I'm happy if I can buy my meat a little cheaper," he states.

His studies are restricted to a bare minimum when he is fully concentrating on his sport. He will do a little geography this term – no more than this is possible.

One of Walter Schmidt's few friends, fellow-student Eberhard Gaede, also lives in Darmstadt. Gaede is also interested in athletics and the two sportsmen have drawn up a new training programme based partly on findings in Russia and East Germany. Every day Eberhard Gaede watches Schmidt train for two hours and improves his style. He receives no money for his pains.

Walter Schmidt is not attracted very much by the almost weekly Olympic preparation courses in Mainz. Conditions there are difficult and unsatisfactory, especially when every second throw lands in a field covered with liquid manure.

He remains a loner, an outsider disappointed by his experiences with the much-vaunted sporting community. He has learnt that the competition amongst sportsmen is pitiless.

He explains the change of the original sporting ideas and ideals by pointing to the burden of having to achieve good performances. "It is a struggle for existence," he claim. "You have to be in front or you are nowhere." You are forgotten if you are off sick for three weeks, he adds – a bitter statement from a person who is prone to sickness and injury.

These are probably the roots of the bitterness sometimes to be found in Walter Schmidt, the shattered hopes of a young man who tends to speak and act spontaneously and emotionally. The situation he is in must cause him some confusion when he adds almost in the same breath, "Sport must be worth living."

But this life means dedication. He would like to play cards or go hunting or dancing but he does not. If he were to go to one of the many parties to which he is invited, his body would go on strike against the unaccustomed daily rhythm. "I'd be dog-tired by eleven o'clock," he claims.

He has had only a week's holiday in the past four years. He is not allowed to take a long break off training as this could prove dangerous. Anyone who has once taken up competitive sport is in a strait-jacket.

The goal of victory in the Olympic Games remains. "If I don't get one of the leading places I shall probably give up," Schmidt says. He is firmly convinced of his chances. He believes he has learnt to better his technique in recent weeks. For years he threw the hammer without supervision in his hometown of Lahr. Serious mistakes crept into his style and he has only now managed to eradicate them. Combining strength with technique should rule out the freak throws of earlier years.

Schmidt knows what he has still to learn. He readily admits that Uwe Beyer was 1971's best hammer-thrower despite Schmidt's own record at Lahr. Schmidt is convinced that things will be different by the time the Olympics come around.

It is this that leads him to accept the stress that would drive a highly-paid footballer from his profession within two weeks.

Rudolf Jöckle

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 31 December 1971)

Keller sets up new world record

Erhard Keller, the 27-year-old Olympic gold medallist, set up a new record time of 38.3 seconds for the 500 metres ice-skating event at Inzell on 2 January. Keller is now the favourite for this event at the Winter Olympics beginning soon in Sapporo. His old world record – set up on 14 March 1971 – was 38.42 seconds.

Keller had no competition at the recent meeting in Inzell and covered the first hundred metres in the fantastic time of 9.68 seconds, a figure previously unrecorded in the history of ice-sprinting. The man he was drawn to race on the two-lane course, Hungarian Janos Toelgyesi, was not in the same class with his 42.19 seconds.

"I would have been even quicker but I was twice unsure in my rhythm, which is no wonder at that speed," the world record-holder explained after the race.

The day before, Erhard Keller skated alone over the 500 metre course, registering a time of 38.78 seconds, because he had previously fallen for the first time in his sporting career during the official sprinter championships.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 3 January 1972)

(Photo: Horstmüller)

Aden	SA $ 0.05
Afghanistan	Af 10.—
Algeria	DA 0.60
Angola	Esc. 1.—
Argentina	$ m n 45.—
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Brazil	N. Cr. $ 0.35
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Cameroun	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Canada	Can. $ —.20
Ceylon	cR —.60
Chile	Esc. 0.60
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Czechoslovakia	Kcs 0.50
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Denmark	dkr 0.90
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Ecuador	S 2.50
El Salvador	C 0.30
Ethiopia	Eth. $ 0.30
Fiji	11 d
Finland	fmk 0.50
Formosa	NT £ 5.—
France	FF 0.60
Gabon	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Gambia	11 d
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Guinea	F.G. 30.—
Haiti	G 0.65
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Hong Kong	HK $ 0.70
Hungary	Ft 1.—
Iceland	Kr 5.—
India	Rs 0.80
Indonesia	Rp. 15.—
Iran	Rl 10.—
Iraq	50 fils
Ireland	11 d
Israel	I £ 0.40
Italy	Lir. 80
Ivory Coast	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Jamaica	11 d
Japan	Yen 50
Jordan	50 fils
Kenya	EAs 0.25
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Malawi	11 d
Malaysia	M. $ 0.40
Mali	FM 60.—
Mexico	$ 1.60
Morocco	DM —65
Mozambique	Esc. 1.—
Nepal	Mohur 1.—
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New Zealand	9 c.
Nicaragua	C 0.85
Niger	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Nigeria	11 d
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Pakistan	Rs 0.60
Panama	B. 0.15
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Peru	S. 3.50
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Sudan	PT 5.—
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Uruguay	P 20.—
USA	$ 0.20
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Venezuela	B 0.60
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Zambia	11 d

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Sadat's year of decision has had to be extended

SüddeutscheZeitung

After a year that according to President Sadat of Egypt was, as he never tired of repeating, to decide once and for all whether there was to be war or peace in the Middle East the situation is more uncertain than ever.

Officially Cairo's view is that moves to cancel out the defeat of 1967 by peaceful means, starting with the Rogers Plan, have proved a failure.

There is little point in hoping for further American mediation, the argument continues, particularly now that the United States has announced its intention of resuming deliveries of Phantom jets to Israel.

The only way to regain the territory lost and refurbish battered self-confidence is, it is concluded, to resort to arms.

Unofficially, but only thinly veiled, the New Year has begun fresh political and diplomatic initiatives.

To claim that the die has been cast but that the liberation struggle will not commence until the time is right serves only to gloss over the fact that Cairo is at a loss what to do, not at present being in a position to embark on military moves that hold forth the slightest promise of success.

Ever since the Six Days' War Egypt has aimed its tactical manoeuvres at the United States as Israel's protector. With Cairo trying to browbeat America into submission by means of an anti-US campaign this remains the case.

It was clear from President Sadat's speeches that intensification of the anti-American campaign would be the next step.

Mohammed Hassanein Heikal, writing in *Al Ahram*, was more specific. The Arabs, he suggested, ought to impose a liberation tax on American oil firms operating on their territory and grant them no further prospecting concessions.

That these were more than mere words was shown not only by the Libyan nationalisation of BP for other, even less substantial reasons but also, and more particularly, by Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad's visit to the Persian Gulf.

The purpose of his visit is to sound out in Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the other emirates that have recently gained independence the possibility of using oil as a means of bringing pressure to bear on the United States.

The media in Cairo were indignant at Bahrain, which for years now has allowed the United State's Gulf flotilla, a miniature force consisting of a flagship and two destroyers, anchorage facilities.

This right was based on an agreement between Washington and Whitehall which was renegotiated at the end of 1971 between Washington and newly independent Bahrain.

The renewal of this agreement was no secret to the governments of the Middle East, including Cairo. Everyone knew and no one expected any other outcome.

The new Egyptian line, however, is to call American presence of any kind anywhere in the Arab world into question – excepting, of course, the Egyptian oilfields, most of which are worked by US firms.

From the Persian Gulf Dr Riad is off to Peking, presumably first and foremost with the aim of involving pro-Arab China in the Four-Power efforts to find a solution to the Middle East crisis. So far the Chinese Communists have shown no great interest in the idea.

At the international level the Arabs' prospects of wiping out the 1967 rout by the exertion of political pressure alone have worsened rather than improved. The UN debate on the Middle East, on which Egypt has been working carefully for the past year, was almost completely overshadowed by the Indo-Pakistani conflict.

The resolution eventually approved by the General Assembly represented a moral victory for Egypt but in practical terms did not live up to the expectations of a more detailed specification couched in stronger terms of the old, ambiguous Middle East resolution.

Dollar devaluation will, in the long term, improve the US balance of payments. The Egyptians had hoped that its deterioration and the decline in US exchange reserves would gradually have worn down American readiness to enable Israel to continue its policy of maintaining the occupation of the territory gained in 1967.

At the beginning of a year in which the Arabs are at a loss what to do they are even more disunited than usual. Iraq has shown virtual disinterest in the conflict with Israel, being more concerned about the Iranian occupation of three small islands at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, a move which has upset even the conservative Arab countries.

Saddam Hussein, Vice-President of the Iraqi Revolutionary Council, event went so far, in an interview with Le Monde, as to admit that his country might not in certain circumstances be opposed to a peaceful solution.

A similar note is sounded by the left-wing Paris-based Committee for Peace in the Middle East, which claims that Salah Khalaf, second in command of Al Fatah, tends towards this view also.

Khalaf, who goes by the name of Abu Ijad, is said to have stated that the commandos are no longer opposed to a political solution provided that the Arab countries make no concessions at the expense of the Palestinian people.

Jordan, which in the aftermath of 1967 for a long time followed in Egypt's footsteps, has to a large extent withdrawn from the consultations between countries that came off worst in the war, particularly now that Cairo has granted political asylum to the four Palestinians who assassinated Jordanian Premier Wasfi Tall.

King Hussein has demonstratively declared in public that his country will not allow itself to be dragged into a war against Israel. Amman has abandoned attempts to have Jerusalem dealt with by the Security Council.

Another point, of course, is that Moscow has to a large extent abolished the restrictions on Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel. Last year some 14,000 Soviet Jews, children not included, arrived in Israel, nearly a third more than in the course of the previous decade.

The Arabs will not for long be able to overlook the fact that this population influx represents a boost to Israeli potential.

Few people in the Middle East were surprised that President Sadat so readily disregarded the 31 December deadline he had set himself. The Egyptians themselves do not hold it against their President that he has chosen not (or not yet) to fight.

Time alone will tell, though, whether it was opportune in terms of domestic politics to pursue a policy of threatening war, doing so without success and then not going to war.

President Sadat has managed to avoid his dilemma by opting for a state of affairs that is neither war nor peace but both at the same time.

Rudolph Chimelli
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 13 January 1972)

Sino – Russian rift continues to grow

Peking's latest statement on nuclear arms does anything but herald a rapprochement between China and Russia. If anything it makes the Sino-Soviet rift even more apparent.

In June 1971 the Soviet government proposed a conference of the five nuclear powers to discuss both questions of nuclear disarmament as a whole and gradual measures with nuclear disarmament in mind.

It was a proposal that could hardly fail to come as a surprise, hailing as it did from a country that is in the midst of a full-scale nuclear armaments programme.

What is more, the Soviet Union had already entered into negotiations with the United States as to how the pace of the nuclear arms race might be slowed down and even talks on so limited an aspect of the problem as a whole had suffered one setback after another.

What, one wondered, was to be the purpose of a fresh round of even vaguer talks between not two but five nuclear powers?

In the circumstances it looked very much as though the Soviet move was aimed first and foremost at China's nascent nuclear power. A gradual approach to nuclear disarmament by the five nuclear powers would inevitably involve the Chinese in negotiations on calling a halt to their own nuclear development programme.

Assuming these talks came to a successful conclusion the Soviet Union would have succeeded in maintaining its enormous nuclear superiority over China.

The Chinese reacted accordingly, rejecting the Soviet proposal a few weeks later. In its stead they proposed a conference to be attended by all countries with the aim of agreeing, as the first step towards total destruction of all nuclear weapons, on a formal ban on their use.

The boot was now on the other foot. Instead of calling the Chinese nuclear development programme to a halt the Peking proposal would merely have rendered more difficult the use of the superior Soviet nuclear arsenal against China.

China has now reiterated this proposal. It may not have had anything new to say but that does not by a long chalk mean that nothing new has happened. The proposal was put forward on the occasion of the thirteenth successful test of China's tactical nuclear deterrent.

The combination serves to emphasise the fact that China is becoming a fully-fledged nuclear power at an even faster rate than has been expected. The Peking proposal means little more than that nothing is going to hold up the development.

Assuming, as one may, that China's progress towards nuclear power is one of the major aspects of Sino-Soviet rivalry it is apparent that there is a clock ticking away in Asia that will soon reach a time at which Russia will be faced with far-reaching decisions.

Dieter Cycon
(Die Welt, 11 January 1972)

Entry in UN in 1972 unlikely, says Willy Brandt

Chancellor Willy Brandt does foresee the two Germanies admitted to the United Nations 1973, according to a recent inter Hopes that the GDR and FRG would members some time this year were shared by the Chancellor.

Foreign Minister Walter Scheel has that after ratification of the treaties Moscow and Warsaw and the implem tion of the Berlin settlement a Europ security conference could be pla multilaterally and in stages.

Speaking in Munich Scheel said: " parations must be most painstaking, an unsuccessful conference would worse than no conference at all."

(Kieler Nachrichten, 5 January 1972)

Nixon's road to Peking

Continued from page 1

conservative Republicans. Dr Kissi his foreign policy adviser, would see be a little more realistic. He recomm allowing the "final relationship betw Taiwan and the People's Republic China" to be settled by means of di negotiations between the two.

Japan is only gradually parting o pany with the United States. India daggers drawn with China, has perfo a volte-face and already largely orient itself towards the Soviet Union.

President Nixon's one-sided prefer for West Pakistan in the Indo-Pakis conflict served merely to accelerate process to the disadvantage of the Unit States.

All that the White House can now th of is to take over former British base Bahrain and show the flag a little for a time in the Indian Ocean - though there were any serious prospe naval dogfights between Soviet cruisers and American nuclear airc carriers!

To see where the problem lies needs only to read the telegrams which the US ambassadors in Tokyo New Delhi bombarded Washington months in vain.

Dr Kissinger and President Nixon taken up with their grand design respect of Peking and Moscow th times they fail to notice how sensiti other governments react to change Amerian foreign policy.

Useful the projected visits may be Mr Nixon's road to Peking is paved ruins and the one to Moscow stumbling-blocks. *Joachim Schwelie*

(Die Zeit, 14 January 1972)

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■ INTER GERMAN RELATIONS

Federal Republic and the GDR edge towards United Nations entry

A general Assembly decision at the United Nations has as much legal force as a hymn: it can encourage and console or awaken feelings of collective right and the legitimacy of joint efforts.

The number of people who doubt the political effectiveness of the United Nations has tended to grow in the 25 years of its existence rather than decline.

This exceptionally pungent comparison of a UN resolution with a consoling hymn was made by an embittered Irish diplomat at the UN who had been disappointed again and again at this United Nations instrument which had so often been prematurely heaped with laurels while the other side of the coin was undoubtedly ignored.

If there were not all the well-known disreputable sides to this organisation it would indeed be incomprehensible why the Federal Republic should consider admission to the organisation as more than a tactical gambit by negotiators.

In its all-consuming efforts to gain international acceptance and an untarnished reputation the German Democratic Republic naturally looks upon the United Nations as a goal worth striving for. But it is a goal which the German Democratic Republic can only reach hand in hand with the Federal Republic.

No one yet knows when Bonn is likely to stretch out its hand to East Berlin and suggest they make their way together to the United Nations building on New York's East River.

Bonn has set up barriers which the German Democratic Republic still has to surmount: a general treaty affecting transport, a basic of general treaty and an exceptional and feasible modus vivendi in Germany.

Only when all this has been cut and dried would the Bonn government be prepared to place its motion for acceptance before the Bundestag so that the essential parliamentary debates and resolution could be taken. This procedure alone would take at least two months even if all went smoothly.

A factor which would certainly cause further delay would be the intention of the Bonn government to insert a clause into the United Nations resolution of acceptance that the four-power responsibility for the whole German nation should be maintained.

Only if the Four Powers reached a consensus on this matter would this country decide against placing a veto. And an unknown factor in German calculations with regard to the UN at the present moment is the new member, Red China, which might take it upon itself for whatever motives to bar the way to the two German States.

Even if all hurdles can be leapt without difficulty UN entry before the end of 1972 is no longer possible. Only cock-eyed optimists would assume that by, say, October not only would the transport treaty but also a treaty of basic settlement between the Federal Republic and the German Democratic Republic be signed, sealed and delivered.

The basic treaty, which would settle decisive details and not be limited to general principles and declarations of intent, is not something that can be hammered out in two, three or even four months. To reach the UN 1972 session in mid-December it is essential to have cleared up German domestic affairs by October. It is probable that this is a point that will not be on the Bundestag agenda until spring 1973 at which time it will be caught up in the maelstrom of the election battles. But from the point of view of the SPD/FDP coalition this procedure is not likely to prove a disadvantage.

The question of what entry into the United Nations will mean for the Federal Republic has been answered sufficiently by pointing to the dead pledge in German policy. But the question will arise again if one imagines the German Democratic Republic's petition for acceptance being rejected because the GDR had not contributed sufficiently to the modus vivendi for which Germany is working or because one of the major powers lodged a veto.

The present relationship of the two German States to the United Nations is a long way away from being resolved to a common denominator. As long ago as 1952 the Federal Republic sent its first delegation of observers to the United Nations. Bonn diplomats of the standing of Danckwort, Knappstein, Sigismund von Braun and Gehlhoff have, in a mere twenty years, contributed towards making this country's representation at the UN qualitatively as well as quantitatively of great stature.

Representatives of West Germany take part at all sessions of the Western European States at which these countries voice their opinions of the individual complexes of problems. And the Bonn delegation does not just listen in; it speaks up too.

Since the countries of the European Economic Community took the first step along the road towards a joint political attitude the position of the Federal Republic in the UN has been cemented even further. It sometimes happens that this country has to take on the role of an influential middle-man.

Also at the European office of the United Nations in Geneva the Federal Republic is represented as an observer.

But all in all as far as political practice is concerned the position that is of even greater significance is the cooperation of this country in the thirteen United Nations special bodies, which is based on unqualified membership.

As early as 1950 the Federal Republic was involved in the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and in 1951 in the World Health Organisation (WHO). By the end of the fifties Bonn was a member of all the special bodies.

The German Democratic Republic is not a member of any. All efforts to try and gain admittance by East Berlin have been in vain.

In this sphere the Hallstein Doctrine applied earlier and today Bonn is still keen to see that the German Democratic Republic should not slip through the back door of the special bodies, and achieve a status similar of that held by Bonn at the United Nations which might possibly lessen the attractiveness of full membership.

Both in New York and Geneva the GDR has tried year in year out to find a role on the UN stage.

Foreign Minister Otto Winzer often put in an appearance in Geneva and at the General Assembly East Bloc allies often helped to present the East Berlin position under their own name.

On the other hand the Federal Republic has not lost much sleep about its position as an observer. Sleepless nights are far more likely to come when this country is a full member for apart from the de facto rights that this country has enjoyed in the past there would be the added duty of taking up a political attitude to all questions put up for debate.

Sten Martenson
(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 7 January 1972)

GDR after Ulbricht steps back to the Moscow line

The balance sheet for 1971 that has been drawn up by the GDR Foreign Ministry is not so rosy as the powers-that-be in East Berlin had predicted at the beginning of that year. But they will not be too gloomy about it either.

This still applies when the efforts of the Socialist Unity Party (SED) to claim for itself all the glory for the initial successes of the policy for coexistence are taken into consideration. Of course the SED is using these claims as a cover for the new position it has had to strike up in the course of the past year.

At the beginning of 1971 three leading personalities made their voices heard. Walter Ulbricht was at the time still First Secretary of the SED; the second voice to be heard was that of Otto Winzer the Foreign Minister and the third his deputy Peter Florin.

In his New Year adress for 1971 Walter Ulbricht called not only for "the creation of normal diplomatic relations between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany" but also "a normal agreement in international law on the question of transit traffic".

He stated that the Federal Republic should not dodge this issue on the grounds that it had no backing from the three Western powers.

Otto Winzer went one step further. In an article in *Einheit* he demanded that the Federal Repubblic should "recognise the Socialist German nation State in international law without any qualifications."

Things turned out differently. As far as the demand for "diplomatic recognition in international law" is concerned the Soviet government, not to mention GDR negotiators, have erased one or two points.

And the transit agreement has been concluded with the "approval of the three Western powers" about which Ulbricht was so scornful and also with the approval of the Soviet government.

At the time Peter Florin was more cautious in his article for the magazine *Horizont*. He spoke only of the establishment of a "relationship of equality" between the two German States and called for the "implementation of diplomatic relationships between all European States and the GDR."

The Warsaw Pact countries were even more reserved in their reactions. According to the magazine *Deutsche Außenpolitik* (German foreign policy) all they demanded from the Federal government in Bonn was "recognition of the existence of the GDR."

The SED has not exactly improved its position in its own camp with this policy. It even had to swallow the concession of giving in to the Warsaw Pact countries' decision to drop their original demand that before any member could hold talks with the Federal Republic Bonn should recognise the East Berlin authorities.

And although it did not need excessive pressure from Moscow or Warsaw to convert the GDR's foreign policy so that it fitted in with the Soviet Union's ideas it is obvious that the fate of the treaties concluded by Russia and Poland with Bonn helped to spur on the GDR negotiators' preparedness to talk and willingness to make concessions.

Now the SED leadership can look forward to the gratitude of all "brother" parties when the completion of a transport treaty and a general treaty with the Federal Republic have paved the way for acceptance of the Germanies into the United Nations and for the European security conference.

And the GDR's hopes that non-Communist countries of Europe would grant them recognition have not so far been fulfilled.

At the beginning of 1971 at a Central Committee meeting Hermann Axen spoke of the movement towards international-law recognition of the GDR by capitalist States in Europe gaining supporters and gaining ground.

In this context he mentioned Great Britain, France, Italy, Denmark and the Netherlands. But up till now not one of these countries has sent a mission to East Berlin. Their solidarity with the Federal Republic has held true.

These countries are not prepared to normalise their relations with East Germany until East Berlin has put its relations with Bonn on a normal footing.

SED foreign policymakers have been more clear-cut in their attitudes towards the outside world than they ever were under Ulbricht – they have followed the Soviet line more closely.

This applies to just as great an extent to their relations with the Third World, in matters such as the Indo-Pak war, and in their attitude towards Peking.

The GDR Foreign Ministry discovered its partiality for Bangla Desh at the same time as the Soviet government came out on the side of India.

They speculated on the triumphant power showing its gratitude and by the end of the year it looked as though their gamble had paid off. A large majority in the Indian parliament called on the government to recognise the government in East Berlin diplomatically.

As far as the policy towards Peking was concerned it was obvious that the SED was keen to earn itself the honourable position of second fiddle to the Soviet Union's first violin in the anti-Mao ensemble.

For the SED leadership this oneness with the Soviet Union in its policies is not without its problems.

This is particularly true in the light of the growing self-awareness that became evident in East Germany in the latter years of the Ulbricht era, a self-confidence that led the GDR to stand up to the Soviet overlord on occasions.

For the rest of the world, however, these developments simplify matters quite a lot, since it is now possible to coordinate foreign policies with regard to the East Bloc from Vladivostok to Marienborn, knowing that the Russians and East Germans are likely to be thinking and acting along the same or similar lines.

Walter Osten
(Vorwärts, 6 January 1972)

■ PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Extreme right wing split into rival groups

The state of the extreme right-wing in West Germany is dismal. Like the extreme left working alongside the West German Communist Party, they are split into rival groups and exhausted by the internal feuds of ambitious party members.

Linus Kather was complaining about a state of affairs that many of his right-wing colleagues had already deplored before him. Summing up the future chances of the extreme right in this country, Kather, an NPD-sympathiser and a former senior official of the Expellees League, stated, "Our efforts will be unsuccessful if there is no quick end to the suicidal disuinion in the nationalist camp."

Kather's plea for political unity and organisational solidarity has not attracted much of a response up to now. Twenty-six years after the downfall of the tyrannical National Socialist regime, the position of the extreme right is more dismal than ever before.

They are split into rival groups and sects, exhausted by internal feuds waged by ambitious party members and ignored by the overwhelming majority of the population.

There are few people with illusions about why this is the case. "The post-war history of the right wing in this country is typified by guerilla warfare," Gerhard Frey, the extreme right-wing newspaper publisher confirms.

There has been no shortage of attempts to unite the disunited nationalists, and overcome the egocentricity of the various groups. One of the last ventures of this kind was the "Resistance Action Group" inspired by the now decadent National Democrats.

The list of groups that united at Würzburg in October 1970 to combat the growing threat of Bolshevisation includes Linus Kather's *Aktion Deutschland*, the *Aktionskreis MUT* and the *Arbeitskreis volkstreuer Verbände*, an umbrella organisation of about a dozen extreme right-wing splinter groups.

Printer Alfred E. Manke of Bensberg near Cologne is the guiding force behind this movement consisting of such groups as the *Volkspolitische Aktion*, *Deutscher Block*, *Jugendbund Adler*, *Wiking-Jugend*, *Stahlhelm* and *Reichsverband der Soldaten*.

After the spectacle put on by the Resistance Action Group in Bischofsstadt he called upon the "nationalist, libertarian forces" to form a front of solidarity.

"Every single person must now work and act as a resistance fighter," he said. "That is why you must form local resistance action groups."

Dick Schwartländer, the former deputy branch chairman of the NPD, the former NPD official Uwe Klaas, and Ullrich W. Wiehagen are particularly prominent among the right-wing political gangsters who have broken with the "tired old bourgeois men of the right."

The three men have set up a number of small action groups such as *Aktion 70*, *Aktion Junger Deutscher* and *Nationale Arbeiter Jugend*, particularly in North Rhine-Westphalia, and have hit the headlines with their terrorist attacks.

The most well-known commando group among these right-wing extremists, the *Deutsch-Soziale Aktion*, has been described by the Ministry of the Interior as the most active and militant extreme right-wing group.

"It is a general characteristic of extreme right-wing organisations that the formation of political will often proceeds from the top," the Ministry of the Interior revealed in a survey conducted in 1971.

In fact, there is only a "top" to many of the hundred or so extreme right-wing splinter groups that the security authorities have traced. A large proportion of nationalist associations are one-man ventures with no more than a letter-head and a post-office box.

Munich's *Sozialrevolutionäre Kampfgemeinschaft Deutschlands* and the *Nationalrevolutionäre Partei*, also of Munich, come into this category. In public statements "party headquarters" lambast "traitors and separatists who on hypocritical pretexts thoughtlessly surrender the unity of the German people to international whims and foreign powers."

Extreme right-wing groups willingly devote themselves to raising a younger generation that is "aware of its people and homeland." The *Arbeitskreis volkstreuer Verbände* set up a *Freundeskreis für die Jugend* to advise and support youth groups with a "healthy nationalist community attitude."

This youth organisation is open to "all boys and girls supporting a new natural order and fostering and thereby creatively forming the values of their own race, their own history and their own culture."

One group that fits this description is the *Wiking-Jugend*. It looks upon itself as Germany-conscious, militant and enduring but has only an estimated fifty members. Greater support is offered the *Bund Heimattreuer Jugend* whose members chose the Odal rune as their badge.

Although older nationalists sometimes expressed their annoyance at the excesses of the younger members, for a long time there were few ideological differences.

But there has now been a basic change here. More and more of the extreme right-wing's younger followers are abandoning the leaders of the old right with their sentimental patriotism and are founding groups of their own.

These groups are still of no great significance but they could gain more ground in the foreseeable future than the existing extreme right-wing groups.

"We must fight antinationalist and antisocial capitalism as well as the inhumane Soviet Communist system," Günter Bayerle, one of the spokesmen of the "Young Right", stated in justification of his group's departure from the nationalist conservative course.

The main group to find any enthusiasm for a "German people's socialism" are the young National Democrats fed up by the "must of dark beer cellars."

In its Kirchhain manifesto the *National-Politischer Arbeitskreis* called for juster distribution of national wealth and socialisation of the profits of anonymous capital companies.

Berlin's *Ausserparlamentarische Mitarbeit*, which describes itself as a nationalist revolutionary basis group, published a pamphlet attacking a freedom "that is the freedom of monopolies to destroy the middle classes, the freedom of agents to earn money without doing honest work and the freedom of foreign trusts to make the German economy dependent, to exploit it and to leave it to its fate in times of crisis."

After falling into disgrace with the National Democrats "nationalist revolutionary" Friedhelm Busse formed the *Partei der Arbeit* in June 1971 and plans to lead it along the path towards a centrally-controlled cadre party.

Busse outlined his political views in te party's central organ *Dritte Republik* (Third Republic) edited by a renegade Maoist: "We are not a movement uniting the right wing and nationalists but the vanguard of social and national revolution in Germany."

The nationalist left-wing course of the *Partei der Arbeit* is nothing new. The *Unabhängige Arbeiter-Partei* with its base

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in the Ruhr has for the past ten years propounded a non-Marxist Socialism that it traces back to Lassalle.

Its youth organisation, the *Blaue Adler-Jugend*, publishes a periodical which claims to be the crystallisation point of the "Young Socialist Right." Its title is *barricade*.

The periodical edited in Ludwigshafen by Hans-Peter Schreiner, and now profiting from the energies of the restless activist Ullrich Wieshagen, attacks the old extreme right-wing with a vehemence that has startled many people in the extreme right-wing camp.

"The German right-wing has failed," the December issue claimed, "because it has not got over National Socialism adequately, if at all."

Appealing to young Social-Nationalists, *barricade* writes, "Overcome at long lost the large number of little Hitlers . . . Take over power among the right-wing with violence, form it into a practical unit and complete a shift to the left as Socialism will only have a future if it does not suit the Nazis."

Klaus Menne

(Deutsche Zeitung, 7 Janury 1972)

No place for extremists Genscher says

Minister of the Interior Hans-Dietrich Genscher sees no place for right-wing or left-wing extremists in the public services.

Minister Genscher said at the beginning of the Civil Servants Congress that a public official must support the aims and ideals outlined in the constitution.

Anybody unable or unwilling to do this could not become a civil servant, Genscher stated. "We are not going to stand idly by watching the State and its institutions being infiltrated and finally destroyed," he said.

The clash with political extremists cannot be conducted blindly in any place or at any time, he added, but he stressed he did not want public officials who had no political convictions.

Genscher stated that the public services must also make their contribution to the policy of stability. He was just as determined to counteract any attempts to unload the burden of a policy of stability on to the public services as they could not be made a scapegoat for the financial situation of public budgets.

Speaking about the reform of laws governing the public services, Genscher stated that the proposals of the relevant committee would be ready by the end of this year along with any alternative solutions that had been suggested.

The reform of the personnel representation law would be passed before the end of the legislative period, he said, and extended to personal and social affairs.

Three limits would have to be imposed here, he added. Firstly, the principle of a democratic State forbade the transfer of decision-making from the government to bodies that bore no governmental responsibility and were accordingly exempt from parliamentary control.

Secondly, administrative efficiency must not be impaired.

Thirdly, the right of the individual forbade other people interfering in his personal affairs against his will.

This year's Civil Servants Congress, the fourteenth, was held with the slogan "Public services at the crossroads." The Civil Servants Association executive also put forward motions concerning the pay situation.

Hans Filbinger, the Christian Democrat Prime Minister of Baden-Württemberg, has also said that activity in extreme right-wing or left-wing groups or parties is incompatible with a job in the public services.

In an interview with the dpa press agency in Stuttgart Filbinger said that the State must show it is not prepared to back people who want to overthrow the basic order.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 11 January 1972)

Majority supports government

More than two out of every three West Germans of voting age are satisfied by what the government did in 1971, a poll conducted by the Wickert Institute of Tübingen reveals.

Sixty-nine per cent of the interviewed sample approved of the work done by the governing coalition of Social Democrats and Free Democrats. The figure for April was as high as 84 per cent.

Thirty-one per cent claimed that the government had a poor or unsatisfactory record for 1971. The April figure was sixteen per cent.

Eighty-eight per cent of the critics were dissatisfied by the government's Ostpolitik, eighty per cent objected to the Berlin Agreement and 69 per cent were against the government's economic policies. Forty-seven per cent were discontented with agricultural policy and 31 per cent with the fight against crime.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 3 January 1972)

■ POLITICS

FDP old hands return to the fold

Free Democrats can now hope to survive politically and overcome the five-per-cent qualification hurdle in both the elections to the Baden-Württemberg Provincial Assembly on 23 April and the Bundestag elections in 1973.

They also have a good chance of taking over a special role in West German society, one that may achieve historical importance.

That is the most important outcome of the FDP's traditional Epiphany Congress in its bastion of Baden-Württemberg, a region that may mean more to the party's spiritual roots than North Rhine-Westphalia where the largest Federal state branch is to be found.

This social and historical role cannot actually be described as representing a goal of the FDP from the time of its foundation but it was always there as a possibility.

Before the party can swing decisively on to this course social development in the Federal Republic must have reached a certain stage and the FDP itself must be in a position to take advantage of the opportunities arising from this situation.

The Federal Republic and its inhabitants will have had to finish essential reconstruction work and at the same time have proved to be a reliable part of the Western world.

And they will have had to begin reexamining the future possibilities available to this State and this society, a process helped along its way by events such as the construction of the Berlin Wall, the *Spiegel* affair, the end of the Adenauer era and the entry of the Social Democrats into the government.

Another part of this rethinking process is the realisation that it is now time to normalise relations with Communist States, especially with the other part of Germany.

Of course the Free Democrats tried to gain support of a specific social group and represent it in the field of political battle long before this process began.

But, irrespective of party programmes or coalition decisions, the party remained in the shadow of the CDU/CSU until Erich Mende resigned the leadership.

It was not until the FDP, with Scheel at its head, decided to help bring about a political change in the Federal Republic that the rethinking that had long ago started in the social sphere could spread into the field of politics. The social groups supporting the FDP changed accordingly.

The FDP aims to capture the support of these groups by using various catchphrases such as progressives and intellectuals. The one joint characteristic feature about them is that they do not feel at home or content in the old straitjacket of conservative, Christian or Socialist ideology.

In view of the many shortcomings of modern society and the increasing complications and strains of today's world they are seeking new ways and solutions that depart from the traditional.

Perhaps the most important new feature of the recent FDP congresses in Freiburg and Stuttgart is that a number of the "old liberals" that the party had already written off are now starting to ally themselves with these groups that consist normally of the younger voters.

They are returning because they have realised in the meantime that only reforms can prevent revolution in the long



The FDP held its traditional Epiphany conference in Stuttgart on 5 January 1972. Georg Gallus, Dr Wolfgang Haussmann, Johann Peter Brandenburg, Dr Wolfgang Vogt, standing, and at the table scanning the newspapers Karl Mörsch and Karl Hermann Flach. (Photo: dpa)

run. Reforms can hardly be expected from the CDU/CSU and those proposed by the Social Democrats will not always be what the liberals want.

They are also noticing that the younger members have begun to realise how questionable revolutions are and how superfluous they are if reforms are introduced at the right time.

On closer reflection, the rethinking process of which we spoke is a mutual learning process. Socially speaking, it has a further dimension that could prove of historical importance.

In 1910 perhaps a third of all Germans, that is 33 per cent, could be looked upon as "progressive", as people who do not think of society as a more or less rigid system of classes or even castes but as a vital coexistence of various groups that are flexible in themselves and open to each other.

As far as relations with other peoples and States are concerned, progressives of this type can only view their own country as one of many nations or as a member of an orchestra where each member has his part to play.

Progressives of this type were in the majority for a time during the Weimar Republic but in the end they were defeated.

Today, half a century later, they have a small numerical majority in parliament. Seventeen per cent growth in some fifty years — that is the rate of progress or the spread of progressive groups in Germany.

If present developments continue, the FDP could play an important, perhaps historic role by ensuring that it will be a few per cent more in the next few years leading to a more stable majority.

Hans Gerlach

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 8 January 1972)

Moscow and Warsaw treaties will take effect this year, FDP spokeman claims

Free Democrat leaders issued a statement on 7 January supporting the government view that the treaties with the Soviet Union and Poland and the Four Power Berlin Agreement should come into force during the course of the year.

A four-point resolution lists the aims that the government wishes to achieve in a general treaty and a traffic settlement with East Berlin.

— "The ratification of the treaties with the Soviet Union and Poland is a decisive contribution to European detente and enables further developments in this direction." This policy is backed by all our Nato allies, the Free Democrats claimed, and support in the Federal Republic was also increasing daily.

— "The Berlin Agreement negotiated by the two German States under the aegis of the Four Powers marks the beginning of less strained relations between the Federal Republic and the German Democratic Republic." Past CDU/CSU-headed governments had been unable to achieve any success in improving inter-German relations or progress in ensuring the security of Berlin, the Free Democrats claimed.

— "The FDP pointed out the way to improve the situation of people in Germany years ago when it published its proposals for a general treaty between the two German States." The Brandt-Scheel government had taken over this idea and included the principles embodied in such a treaty in the twenty points presented to the East Berlin government in Kassel, the Free Democrats stated. Negotiations on this point are to begin in the summer.

— Future treaties with East Berlin should ensure that the transport links should be extended and improved.

(Die Welt, 8 January 1972)

Wischnewski predicts increased support for governing coalition

Social Democrat business manager Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski believes that the governing coalition will have a larger majority than ever after the 1973 Bundestag elections.

He forecast that the Social Democrats and Free Democrats will increase their share of the vote while the CDU/CSU will lose support. The National Democrats will lose almost all the votes they had attracted in the past, he added, while the Communists will fail miserably in their attempt to overcome the five-per-cent hurdle vital for representation in the Bundestag.

An Emnid survey conducted in December showed that forty per cent of West German would vote SPD, 38 per cent CDU/CSU, six per cent FDP and one per cent each for the Communists and National Democrats. Fourteen per cent were don't-knows.

An Infratest survey conducted in November showed, after the don't-knows were eliminated, that fifty per cent would vote CDU/CSU, 45 per cent SPD and five per cent FDP.

Wischnewski said he was more inclined to believe the latter set of results but it was hard to ignore the increase in the popularity of the Social Democrats, especially that of their leader, Willy Brandt.

When asked who they would like as Chancellor, 47 per cent of the interviewed sample plumped for Brandt while 35 per cent chose Rainer Barzel.

Wischnewski said that the CDU party congress at which Barzel was elected leader had harmed the Christian Democrats more than the special SPD fiscal congress has harmed the Social Democrats.

In fact, he said, this congress had come across quite well. One survey showed that 74 per cent saw the justice of the top tax rates demanded by the SPD.

In the past years 75,000 new members joined the SPD, bringing the total to 850,000. Eighteen per cent of the new members are self-employed, 36.8 per cent public officials and white-collar workers and 35.6 per cent blue-collar workers. Almost ten per cent were housewives. Wischnewski stated that the proportion of workers was too low — it should rise to about forty per cent.

Wischnewski also predicted a good result for the Social Democrats in the Baden-Württemberg elections later on in the year. He warned against treating this election as a test for the Bundestag election as far as foreign policy was concerned. This warning is interpreted in Bonn as an admission that the Social Democrats have a poor starting position in the Baden-Württemberg elections.

Wischnewski stated that the SPD would pursue a policy of attack with the Opposition. Particular attention would be paid to upholding the rights of workers and tenants.

The clash with the Opposition over economic policy, Wischnewski said, was difficult as the Opposition had no clear policy of its own.

Wischnewski said that the SPD would use the debate on the treaties with Moscow and Warsaw to show how out-of-step the Opposition was with our allies and conservative parties in other countries.

The SPD wishes to propose to the other parties an election campaign agreement for the Bundestag elections limiting the amounts that can be spent on the campaign and ensuring a fair election.

Wischnewski announced that the party would form commissions for the further develop of basic political values, for the accumulation of capital wealth and for property laws.

The new party monthly will appear next year at the latest. Between 850,000 and 900,000 copies of the magazine-style *Politik* will be printed.

Wischnewski pointed to the SPD's international contacts and welcomed the fact that the secretary-general of the Gaullist party was to visit the SPD in Bonn.

The governing parties of both countries should work together within the framework of the particularly close Franco-West German alliance, Wischnewski added.

The SPD has no official contacts with Communist parties but, Wischnewski said, talks would be conducted if they seemed beneficial to foreign policy.

Wischnewski will continue to act as business manager to the best of his ability until the party executive elects a new person for this post.

As neither the executive or the party leadership has discussed this question, all the names already mentioned are more or less a matter of speculation, he added.

Wischnewski said he would only give up his seat on the party executive if his successor were a member of the party leadership and accordingly entitled to join the executive.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 6 January 1972)

■ THE COMMON MARKET

Acid test for social aspects of EEC to come this year

The new year will present the European Economic Community with a real trial of strength. It is not simply a question of the extension of the Community to ten countries, but also concerns the development of the EEC purposefully towards a social welfare group of States in which the interests of working people are given serious and fair consideration.

Up till now social welfare policies have been given short shrift in the EEC and many critics fear that development will be in the direction of a bigger and bigger EEC with ever larger concerns and new cartels. 1972 will show whether this criticism hits or misses the mark.

An important test of this is the creation of effective protective measures for workers when companies are taken over or merged.

Without doubt European integration will encourage the formation of larger industrial groupings. Last year alone in the EEC area there were about 1,000 supra-national mergers of companies.

Insofar as this development cannot be prevented for technical and economic reasons it is essential that at the same time the required social rulings and protective measures should be developed to remove or neutralise the negative consequences of mergers.

At the end of January 1972 there will be the first conference with trades unions in Brussels about this complex of questions.

This will concern not only protecting workers during national but also international company mergers so that a general ruling for the entire process of concentration in EEC countries will be essential.

In order to find such a general solution a committee of experts from Labour and Social Welfare Ministries in EEC countries has been set up at the European Commission headquarters since the commission is all in favour of this important move.

But before specific suggestions are made, the unions insist, it is necessary to consult the workers' representatives.

According to the concept drawn up by the European Confederation of Free Trade Unions all mergers involving capital above a certain specified level must first be put up for approval. This approval should only be given in cases where the administrative bodies of all companies involved in the merger present in good time a report on the measures they will carry out to protect those workers adversely affected by the merger.

This will lay emphasis on job security, a guarantee of the social position of the worker and the maintenance of all the contractual and legal benefits for the worker and his union. This report must be presented in good time to company representatives and the unions. These must be given the opportunity to discuss the reports and publish their opinions on all aspects of it before any final decision is taken on the merger.

Walter Fritze

(Welt der Arbeit, 7 January 1972)

1972 will be the EEC's trial year

A year of trial has begun for the European Economic Community. The countries that have united to form the Common Market stand at the crossroads. The entry of Great Britain and other western and northern European countries into the EEC will mean that Europe will not be parcelled up into little economic blocs.

But the solemn acceptance of these countries into Europe is not the occasion for florid speeches. There is still the danger that through the admittance of Britain, Denmark, Eire and Norway into the EEC the Council of Ministers will deteriorate into a similar organisation to the United Nations, the limitations of which have been unfortunately shown all too clearly by the Indo-Pakistan conflict. That is to say it could become an institution that allows the constituent countries far too much freedom to go their own way.

And the latest list of cases where the EEC treaties have been violated shows how members of the six-strong club have not had any scruples about swerving from the solemn and binding agreements in their own national interests.

Even if these regulations are kept to the letter, however, little progress will be made until the breakthrough to a political union can be achieved.

The much vaunted currency union would have to become the acid test for this if political union were not preceeded by a supra-national government, successfully carrying out its work and a responsible European parliament, or at least created simultaneously with these.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 4 January 1972)

Kennedy Round enters final stage

On 1 January the fifth and last stage of the Kennedy Round of proposed customs levy reductions took effect. Does this mean that the period in which the worldwide breakdown of customs barriers all through the postwar years was carried out has at last come to an end?

The Kennedy Round was in fact the sixth international programme of customs level reductions since the Second World War and followed on from the Dillon Round almost without a hiatus.

Forty countries took part, making it at the same time the largest such conference. Today we can say without fear of contradiction that this development has been of advantage for world trade.

According to the calculations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) the value of world trading average of 7.5 per cent, but between 1967 and 1970 the increase was thirteen per cent.

Customs tariff lowering is also believed to have helped check worldwide inflationary tendencies by making imports less expensive.

But today those who look to the future at Gatt headquarters in Geneva no longer do so through rose-tinted glasses. Director-General Oliver Long stated recently that it was possible to live off the interest rates dealt with by the Kennedy Round in the past, but now it was necessary to start eating away at the actual substance.

Oliver Long expressed his regret that Gatt members pursued no clear and long-term trade policy line, but only employed short-term tactical ploys.

Again and again we hear voices raised in favour of a new round of customs tariff negotiations, but for the moment there is no specific reason for embarking on such a round of talks.

For precisely this reason the EEC and the United States should tackle this question when they resume their trade policy negotiations in Brussels in the near future. This could be the basis for a new and truly constructive piece of work for the benefit of world trade.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 3 January 1972)

A year of hope for farmers

In the past when the European farmers unions cried out for higher farm produce prices their cries fell on deaf ears in the EEC Commission and the EEC Council of Ministers.

The reason was that the European agricultural landscape was dotted with disfiguring features, mountains of butter, grain and sugar. But with the new year the farmers can start hoping again.

Not that the surpluses of farm produce are much less of a worry now. The grain harvest last year broke all records and was twelve per cent higher than any other harvest in the past five years.

As well as the seven million tons of excess corn in store there is for the first time a surplus of a million tons of barley going spare. Sugar production has exceeded requirements by one million tons or fifteen per cent.

Also statistics show that all is far from well on the butter market. Developments are not so favourable as was at first assumed. State controlled and private storage centres are taking in 150,000 tons of newly produced butter every month and the Ministry of Agriculture (and Food) expects that from early 1972 the State stores will have to buy up larger quantities of butter.

Despite all this it is being mooted in Brussels that the agricultural experts on the EEC Commission are planning a far more extensive series of price increases in farm produce than has ever been contemplated in previous years.

The following figures have been put forward: a five-per-cent increase in the price of grain, eight per cent more for milk, three per cent for sugar and about nine per cent for beef.

This unheard of generosity has been forced by the currency exchange developments. The differing rates of revaluation of EEC currencies have destroyed the community price level.

In order to restore this it has been necessary to lower the price of farm produce in those countries whose currency was steeply revalued (the Federal Republic and Benelux) and raise prices in the others. However politically speaking it is almost impossible to push through price reductions.

Taking the price reduction of about three per cent that is forced by the currency policy decision in conjunction with a general price increase of six to seven per cent there remains for the West German farmer an overall price increase, although this is less than his counterparts in other EEC countries have enjoyed.

Europe's farmers have not actually received the price increases yet. For a start the EEC commission has not yet given its blessing to the decisions taken by the agricultural policymakers and furthermore Italy is likely to come out strongly against price increases again as in the past.

Politically speaking this campaign to restore the Community agricultural market is desirable although it is economically speaking questionable in the light of the surpluses. Higher prices must stimulate productivity.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 4 January 1972)

Pompidou takes hard line against U.S.

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Georges Pompidou, the French Pre- dent, had a new tone of voice in most recent interviews for Washing and for his partner countries in European Economic Community. Follo ing his successes at his meeting w President Nixon in the Azores and follo ing the concessions made by the Am ricans at the meeting of the Group of in Washington the French government obviously had a great boost to self-confidence.

It is firmly believed in Paris that European partners and the Ameri government will have a lot of time respect for the French point of view the forthcoming trade and currency p icy negotiations.

As far as the agriculture policy negot tions between Brussels and Washington present in progress are concerned Geor Pompidou has already placed a v against all concessions on the part Europe which might alter the characte the common farm-produce market.

It is precisely on the points where Americans were hoping the Europe would make concessions that Paris shown its teeth. "You can count on stubbornness," Pompidou cried out the French farmers and added t France was not just defending its o interests, but those of all farmers in t EEC as well.

Of the principles from which Geor Pompidou has promised he will swerve the most important is the co munity preference, that is to say principle that Europe will consume own agricultural produce first and o turn to outside countries for additio requirements.

Furthermore he intends to stick to principle of financial solidarity, wh means that when surpluses of agricult produce arise these will be exported w the aid of Community subsidies, principle that up till now has mainly b of benefit to the French.

Finally there is the matter of the un of farm-produce prices in the EEC, wh was upset by the floating of the Mark which the West German Agriculture Mi ister is not keen to restore even after return to fixed rates of exchange.

Simply put Pompidou wants a return the basic protectionist principles of Common Market at precisely the sa moment as the Americans are pushing the renunciation of these principles. It therefore, a question of a French pure and simple against concessions the European Commission to Washingt in the agriculture sphere.

It should be taken into considerati that the devaluation of the dollar th Washington announced at the confere of the Group of Ten will be definitive approved by Congress not before January. If the Europeans have by th time made the required trade-policy co cessions.

In Paris, however, the opinion is th under no circumstances can th Americans renege on the dollar devalu tion and after his experiences at th Azores meeting President Pompidou obviously convinced that it will in futu again pay to take a hard line in negoti tions with the Americans.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 29 December 1971)

■ GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING

Toothless Federal Audit Bureau fights grimly against official errors

Hans Schäfer, President of the Federal Audit Bureau, draws a veil of silence around himself at first, although he knows all about something, which has so far only been mooted: the extravagant spending on Olympic buildings in Munich, which must be financed by State funds.

The founder of the Audit Bureau, Friedrich Wilhelm I, King of the Prussians, would probably have had some heads rolling. When he came to the Prussian throne in 1713 the first thing he did was to cut back payments to court and State officials from 276,000 to 55,000 Taler.

Then he gave the order that the general war fund should "be strictly and carefully examined". Upon examination it was found to contain many undesirable factors.

Just a few days after he came to the throne the King appointed Privy Councillor von Creutz as the Finance and War Councillor and Controller General of Public Funds (the "privy" goes without saying).

With monarchical severity he then gave his auditing staff the order that no one should be treated leniently "do what he will, and even though it be my own brother, and all nooks and crannies shall be surveyed, which in sooth we should not have to say".

The present-day audit bureau is likewise charged to survey all nooks and crannies and throw light on the channels through which the thousands of millions spent by the government pass. It is, as Theodor Heuss once said, "the fourth estate" in the Federal Republic.

The power exercised by the roughly five hundred State assessors who work in Berliner Strasse, Frankfurt, is of course limited today. Prussia's civil servants went weak at the knees when they had to come before the Berliner *Oberprüfer*.

But today ministers, State secretaries and junior civil servants know there are a number of escape roads along which they can find excuses when the auditor points out the shortcomings of their mathematics.

For example when the audit bureau stated that the Starfighter force has cost the taxpayer more than was necessary because its weapons system was still in its infancy when the planes were delivered the then Defence Minister Franz Josef Strauss, whose main responsibility it was to answer the charge, launched a counter attack.

He called the responsible official at the audit bureau, incompetent and inexperienced. And the fact that the Federal Audit Bureau had indirectly made Strauss responsible for the extra costs was in the Minister's opinion "a degradation of political ethics".

Just how blunted this weapon, invented by King Friedrich Wilhelm I, has become in the fight against the routine practices of civil servants can be shown by another example. Some years ago the assessors in Frankfurt claimed that the *Deutsches Studentenwerk* had siphoned off three to four million Marks of the taxpayers' money. Their demand that the money should be paid back has still not been heeded. What is even worse is that the audit bureau has had to deal with the affairs of the *Studentenwerk* again. It is at present investigating an allegation that the committee of the students' organisation sold a piece of land at too low a price.

The organisation has given a number of reasons why it made the sale and is not denying that at least a major proportion of the planning costs that preceded the sale have been lost.

The reports presented annually to the Bundestag by the Federal Audit Bureau, so that the government can be vindicated by parliament, in fact only contain a fraction of the cases dealt with. Many cases are simply settled "out of court" with the bureau's President presenting the facts to the relevant authorities and calling on them to rectify the situation.

It is only when the department involved fails to cooperate, as in the Starfighter case when the audit bureau had to intervene no less than fifteen times, that the official laxity is reported to the Bundestag.

The main task of the Federal Audit Bureau is to check accounts as a part of the parliamentary budget control. They cast their eyes over the books of all Federal authorities, the Bundesbahn, Bundespost, the E.R.P. Special Fund and all institutions and associations with which the government is connected or which pay subsidies to Bonn.

Another right of the audit bureau President is to step in before and during the planning of a project. The criteria his assessors follow are: adherence to all rules and regulations, thrift and economy.

When it is remembered that the Federal budget is at present more than one hundred milliard Marks it is self-evident that the five hundred assessors can do no more than make random tests.

President Hans Schäfer said: "It would be impossible to check everything unless our staff were increased tenfold. But no office knows when we are about to descend on them so our mere existence is educational."

But the existence of the Federal Audit Bureau may not be so effectively educational as all that. Despite its concentration on making random tests the bureau still finds difficulty in surveying all the complicated processes of State income and outgoings.

While those who have been subject to the examination often moan about the pettyfogging Pfennig pinchers from Frankfurt the examiners are busy complaining that only greater specialised knowledge would put them in a position to make an accurate assessment of what is a bad investment.

This is particularly true when they are called on to investigate sophisticated weapons systems. Hans Schäfer's predecessor, the former State Secretary at the Defence Ministry Volkmar Hopf, said that today embezzlement is so refined that the audit bureau staff is not experienced enough to sniff it out.

Hans Schäfer, too, though he stresses the general good character of his subordinates, does emphasise that his office needs reinforcements from the ranks of the younger technicians, business managers and sociologists.

Bonn decides whether the audit bureau is to have new staff or not and sometimes goodwill is lacking. The Bureau wanted nine new staff positions for the coming year – the government approved only four. But the budget committee later amended this decision and gave Schäfer the personnel he wanted.

Hans Schäfer is trying to do something about the oft-criticised problem of the audit bureau's reports lagging months or even years behind budget reports. In future it is intended to cut down the time lag before their report is presented to the Bundestag to eighteen months.

This will at least avoid the situation where the audit bureau reproves a government that is no longer in power.

Whatever the Federal Audit Bureau discovers is going on it has no power to give advice or in any way punish the minister or civil servant responsible. Not even the Bundestag has the right to do that.

Peter Säckl (SPD), a member of the account assessment committee said: "Our most powerful weapon is strong disapproval."

Theoretically it is possible to pursue an instance of abuse to the courts and call for reparations to be made, but it is usually extremely difficult to prove illicit or incompetent acts leading to discrepancies. In addition to this, criticism of unwise investments can usually be fobbed off with political arguments.

Even if an official is called upon to make reparations it is rarely possible for him to do so from his salary. It is possible to call for a vote of no confidence in a minister in the Bundestag, but in practice this is never done. No parliamentary party would be prepared to drag a minister from its ranks before a plenary meeting of the Bundestag and throw at him any mud stirred up by the audit bureau.

The audit bureau's last hope is to wash dirty linen in public, but even this is ineffectual since names may not be named even when there is a cast-iron case. The audit bureau is no court and therefore is not able to state in public who is the guilty party.

But if one works on the assumption that the amount of fraudulent conversion or loss by negligence of State enterprise – one per cent of the total value – the sum involved on a 100-milliard-Mark budget is still 1,000 million Marks, which makes the audit bureau's efforts seem worthwhile.

In 1970 Helmut Schmidt had to order a consignment of guns, because 151,761 of the previous batch had gone astray. In the end the Ministry of Defence found 101,659 of them, but the rest were about written off. Then the audit bureau stepped in and called for a further search – another 13,200 were found in various depots. The disappearance of another 17,808 was traced to an inventory error.

When a general stocktaking was made, at the request of the audit bureau it was discovered that there were 32,294 guns *more* than expected!

The new order was cancelled and the saving for the taxpayer was 25,000,000 Marks.

Wolfgang Hoffmann

(Die Zeit, 7 January 1972)

New law makes package cheating more difficult

The battle against misleading packaging began back in the summer of 1969 with the passing of a law to standardise the statement of weights and measures. But it was not possible to bring the advantages of this law to the consumer before January this year. It was essential to give manufacturers and traders time to adjust to the new provisions.

The provisions of this law also took into account a transitional period for the conversion to the new stipulations about packaging and statement of contents, so that in the next few months it will be important to make the distinction between old packets and new.

AGV, the consumers association, is not under the illusion that the new weights and measures legislation answers all the complaints raised by the consumer. But it is claimed that this legislation is a milestone along the road to consumer protection and marks a considerable step forward.

This legislation attempts to apply standards by which the contents of a package shall be described, so that the consumer knows exactly how much of the product he is getting without complicated mental arithmetic.

Thus it will be easier for the consumer to compare prices and see which brand gives the best value.

Furthermore this legislation will cut the numbers of types of packaging and will attempt to eradicate packaging fiddles by means of stiff fines.

Up till now there has always been a certain degree of tolerance between the weight or volume of a product as marked on the packaging, but from now on the consumer is to be given a more precise idea of exactly how much he is getting for his money.

In the past the degree of tolerance was utilised by the manufacturer in many cases to gauge by means of sophisticated measuring equipment how much of his product he was selling and make sure that he was near the lower end of the legal scale.

The new legislation provides that a batch of any product should be marked with its *average* weight, so that if the manufacturer in future gives one customer short measure he must give another an excess and will thus not benefit from any inaccuracy himself.

A second considerable advantage provided for by this law is that the contents of any package must be marked clearly and unambiguously and strict standards are laid down for the size of type face used for this purpose.

With a few exceptions all packages will in future have to be described from the point of view of weight *and* volume.

The provision for marking the basic price of an item is also designed to make it clearer to the consumer what he is paying and what he is getting for it.

The consumer's desire to make comparisons of price, quantity and quality would be made easier by the stipulation that packages must be marked not only with the amount they contain and what this costs but also the price per kilo or litre, unless the package is one of those of uniform size provided for under the new legislation of 50, 100, 125, 200, 250 or 500 grams or 1 to 5 kilograms.

In packages of these sizes it is not essential to mention the standard price, something which the AGV regrets. However it must not be forgotten that the great variety of packages has now been cut by law.

This means that in future the consumer's decision will be between packages which state clearly the basic price per kilo or packages that conform to a standard size. He will not be faced with a plethora of confusing sizes and weights and prices. Thus the skill of many manufacturers to conceal price increases by altering the size of a package is no longer possible.

However, the AGV has no illusions and expects that before the year is out manufacturers will be making use of packages with standardised contents which nevertheless make it seem that they contain more than they really do.

The consumers association also considers the transitional period allowed for certain packages rather generous, but does admit that it is not possible to declare machines for manufacturing packages and stocks of millions of bottles obsolete overnight.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 29 December 1971)

■ MARITIME AFFAIRS

Merchant navy register is a closed book to the girl in every port

Hamburg's merchant navy register is something unique. Kept up to date by a skilled team of full-time research staff, it contains particulars of everyone in this country who has ever gone to sea but does not readily disclose information to all comers.

Year after year, especially towards Christmas, thousands of letters are sent to the merchant navy register by girls who have been left in the lurch. "Macco was the name in indelible ink on the back of his shirt. Where is he now?

He is almost certainly on the register's books, together with some 56,000 other seamen working on roughly 4,700 merchantmen registered in this country. But letter-writers of this kind are in for a disappointment. The index is not allowed to divulge information of this kind.

When Christmas is in the offing any number of parents and relatives of sons, brothers and uncles in the merchant navy suddenly recall family ties long forgotten and try to get in touch.

These are trying times for the staff of 41 who look after the merchant navy index. They are invariably at the receiving end of insults galore as a result of the stereotyped letter they are obliged to send by return of post saying that they are not allowed to spill the beans.

Paragraph 115 of the Reich insurance regulations, paragraph 141 which deals with secrecy and paragraph 12 of the Federal Statistics Act define in unmistakeable detail the few instances in which a social security index may divulge information concerning the whereabouts and private life of Jack Tar.

An alimony claim or even the desire for a postcard saying "Am alive and well, With love, Willy" cannot be forwarded to the ends of the earth unless it carries more weight than an individual and private enquiry.

The enquiry has to be made by an organisation or public body, such as the police, and it has to be made in writing, the sole exception being the branch of Hamburg CID dealing with sailors, which can phone through for immediate details.

Yet the number of phone calls remains astronomic and even the number of people who take the trouble to put pen to paper amounted in 1970 to an impressive 47,000.

There is one instance, and one only, in which queries by private individuals can be dealt with. Parents trying to trace children under the age of 21 who may well have gone to sea are entitled to an answer without having to go to the trouble of first consulting the police.

You may think fewer people run away to sea these days but you would be mistaken. Enquiries of this kind are all in the day's work as far as the index staff are concerned.

Provided the prodigal son is under 21 on the day enquiry details of his employer may be disclosed to the parent or guardian, always providing, of course, that the company is paying insurance contributions for him.

If the son is over 21 nothing can be done. We are sorry, the staff have to say, but we are not empowered to divulge information in this case.

Why is it that there are almost as many enquiries as there are merchant seamen? Many sailors have left the navy and settled down (and are accordingly no longer on the social security register). Other enquiries may concern erstwhile sailors who served before the mast rather than the funnel and have long since passed away.

For Hamburg is also the repository of the archives of the Seekasse, a seamen's insurance scheme set up in 1907. They are regularly consulted to help settle inheritance matters.

In 1936 an attempt was made to develop the register into an index containing all details of a sailor's life. These went so far as to include certification of so-called Aryan extraction and the aim was patently to provide facilities for the snooping that was customary in Nazi days.

This is no longer the case. The green filing cards that are to be computerised over the next few years contain the seaman's name and home address (if known) and a few other coded particulars.

They include the name of the employer (rather than the ship, which is immaterial for social security purposes), the man's qualifications, length of service and average earnings (revised annually), on the basis of which contributions are assessed.

Yet even this figure is of considerable interest for wives and girlfriends but the chances of ever finding out the details are nil. Divorced wives will never know just how much their ex-husbands are currently earning.

So the sailor's private life insofar as it is detailed on his insurance card is safe from snoopers – and this applies in equal measure to foreign nationals working on vessels registered in this country.

In mid-1971 there were 12,874 of them, 22.9 per cent of the total. The number, the index comments, is likely to continue to increase. Ten years ago foreigners accounted for only 2.6 per cent of the total.

The most foreigners are to be found in the categories deep-sea fishermen (5[illegible] per cent), ABs (46.9 per cent), dockhands (41.2 per cent) and stokers (40.3 per cent).

Even fifteen per cent of the wireless officers are now foreign nationals, while the percentage of foreign stewards (3[illegible] per cent) comes as less of a surprise.

But only two out of the 1,401 captains of ocean-going ships registered in this country are foreigners – Austrians, both of them.

More seriously, 8,853 of the 56,000 insured persons in the merchant navy were injured at their work in 1970, one in [illegible] of them in deep-sea fishing.

Life at sea is not yet bogged down in bureaucracy but the delay in submitting reports makes life more difficult for the staff of the Hamburg insurance headquarters.

If a ship is off the coast of Australia three weeks delay are allowed for but if reports are any slower coming in Hamburg wants to know why.

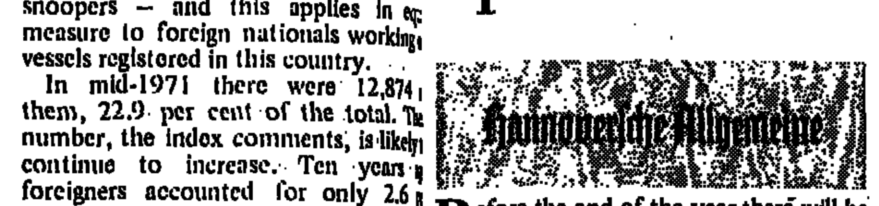
In 1970 over 33,000 Marks in fines were imposed for reports belatedly submitted. The year before only 6,550 Marks worth of fines were imposed.

Eberhard Nitschke

(Die Welt, 5 January 1972)

■ AUTOMOBILES

VW hope to have an electrically powered vehicle available soon



Before the end of the year there will be a new Volkswagen, an E-type Volkswagen, one could well say. It will be powered not by the conventional four-cylinder combustion engine but by a battery-powered electric motor.

The production schedule has been worked out in detail. Twenty electric VWs are to be manufactured by the end of 1972, 200 by the beginning of 1974 and 2,000 by the end of 1975. They will be Volkswagen minibuses, not Beetles, not yet anyway.

They will not be experimental vehicles either. The two prototypes on order are due to be put through their paces over the next few months. The main order is for fully-fledged normally registered vehicles for delivery as arranged.

Volkswagen are having to get a move on. The Japanese are already a step ahead. Since August 1971 Daihatsu have been manufacturing 100 electric estate cars and transporters a month.

This May Daihatsu plan to manufacture an estate car powered by a Wankel rotary engine and generator, a lead battery and two electric wheel hub motors.

The writer recently went for a trial run in a battery-driven BMW in Munich. This particular model was only a prototype but it certainly was a pleasure to drive. Ignition, acceleration and away it went. There was no engine noise to annoy passengers and surroundings and no exhaust fumes.

The Japanese government has decided to subsidise the development of electric-powered motor vehicles to the tune of sixty million Marks by 1975. In this country electric vehicles are still subject to punitive taxation.

In the United States, in Britain (where there are already 60,000 battery-powered vehicles on the roads), in France, Italy, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union leading and smaller motor and electrical manufacturers are hard at work developing electric-powered exhaust-free vehicles for general use, for the most part with the aid of government subsidies.

In Japan and the United States thirty private cars and vans have been developed for research purposes. In this country a mere thirteen are under construction.

"We are forging ahead at full speed to make something of the idea," says Alfred Haymann a director of Varta, Hanover. As the major Continental manufacturer of batteries of all kinds Varta have a hand in all current projects in this country.

Max Pöhler, Varta's director of applications technology, adds that, "I am optimistic because modern technology makes it possible to design vehicles interesting in every respect."

Technology rather than taxation has been the main reason why several past attempts to secure a share of the market for electric cars have been doomed to failure.

In the post-war era there were at one stage 22,000 electric-powered vehicles on the roads of this country, and in the United States, where the Runabout, a two-seater convertible and the first electric car in the world, saw the light of day in 1890, comparable sales figures were notched up in the final years of the nineteenth century.

But the combustion engine proved the winner. The gap between the weight and performance ratios of the two forms of propulsion was and remains too great.

The lead storage batteries of electric vehicles run out of juice well before the fuel tank of a petrol or diesel engine, and if electric cars are to compete with their conventional competitors in range and speed the batteries are so heavy that the payload is considerably cut back.

Take, for instance, the Daimler-Benz hybrid omnibus that runs off battery electricity in town and changes over to a diesel engine-cum-generator in the suburbs. Its battery weighs three and a half tons.

Since no changes were to be made to the other weights and measures of the bus the manufacturers had no alternative but to reduce passenger capacity from 115 to 66.

Since the beginning of last year MAN have supplied the same vehicle for use by Koblenz corporation transport department. The batteries, however, are housed in a trailer and the number of passengers is the same as it ever was. So far both the operators and the passengers have been most satisfied with the electric bus.

There can be no mistaking the fact that public opinion is beginning to change. Both the authorities and the general public are engaged in a rethink. Most people now realise that combustion engines cause a lot of harm and are prepared to subscribe to the view that they need not necessarily be used for each and every purpose.

"Environmental protection has been a considerable boost," Haymann reckons. "But," Pöhler adds, "we are not losing touch with reality."

This, then, is the technological situation at present: a good deal better than a decade ago but still not good enough for electric power to supplant combustion engines to any great extent.

More powerful, lightweight electromotors, batteries and controls making use of electronics have rendered considerable performance improvements possible. Until 1955 twenty miles an hour was pretty well the top speed as far as electric vehicles were concerned.



Sets of batteries being loaded into a VW (Photo: Archiv HAZ)

Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm, the first domestic manufacturer to develop a one-ton van, have succeeded in doubling and nearly trebling this speed. Today's electric motor vehicles are capable of speeds of between thirty and forty miles an hour. This is enough for city traffic. "We are developing vehicles for urban traffic," Pöhler says, and most of the projects under development all over the world are geared to the requirements of exhaust-polluted citycentres. "Delivery vans have priority," Varta say, but this restriction is not solely due to the sudden concern for environmental protection on the part of industry. The effective range of electric vehicles is still limited.

A range of sixty miles is a first-rate achievement as things stand and virtually the upper limit. Yet most delivery vans, industrial surveys have revealed, cover distances of less than sixty miles a day in any case.

There is plenty of time to recharge the batteries overnight. They can be back on the road again after being recharged for three hours or so.

Rheinisch-Westfälische Elektrizitätswerke (RWE), the public utility that has commissioned the 2,000 electric minibuses from Volkswagen, plan to have built up a network of recharging bays at strategic points by the time the vehicles are in service. The batteries will be changed, serviced, recharged and rented to the owners of the vehicles.

Conventional storage batteries will be with us for some time to come, Pöhler feels, though they will be converted to an air and metal system. "We are hard at work on the development programme."

In America and Japan research and development work on new battery systems is also forging ahead. The aim is to increase the range at present feasible three- or fourfold.

Were a battery capable of powering an electric vehicle for, say, 250 miles before needing recharging the electric car would to all intents and purposes have drawn level with its conventionally-powered competitors.

In this country the trend is towards the development of electric-powered commercial vehicles and delivery vans. But when the new generation of batteries is ready for general use in about five years' time they could well, Pöhler feels, be used to power private cars.

So it is by no means out of the question that there could, by 1975 or 1976, be an electric-powered Volkswagen Beetle.

In America a very large number of electric vehicles are expected to be purring their way round town by 1980 or so. Increasingly strict exhaust regulations will accelerate developments.

In 1980 there will be an estimated 22 million vehicles on the roads of this country. A million of them could be powered by electricity. Whether they will be or not may depend to a large extent on legislative changes.

A million electric motor vehicles could be powered from the national grid without difficulty, Pöhler estimates. Recharging batteries would take roughly 9,000 million kilowatt hours, a drop in the ocean with estimated total consumption at 400,000 million kilowatt hours.

City air would almost certainly be better, and although the general tenor of feeling in industry may not at present stress this aspect, the development of electric propulsion for private cars ought to be lent every support for reasons of environmental hygiene.

There is no reason why the electric motor ought not to emerge as a genuine alternative to the conventional combustion engine. Foreign firms and governments certainly seem to think so and are acting accordingly.

Economic common sense ought, then, to convince domestic manufacturers of the need to keep pace with international competition and bear electric power for private cars in mind.

Dieter Tasch

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 8 January 1972)

Traffic problems can only be solved by taxing cars off the road

It will take a package of measures to keep city traffic on the move. Individual efforts are doomed to failure. They will have no perceptible effect and certainly nothing lasting.

This is the conclusion reached in a report commissioned by the motor vehicle manufacturers association from Professors Farenholtz, Willeke and Hartenstein, whose aim it was to lead the holy cow "automobile" to the slaughter.

They conclude that private traffic can only be cut back comprehensively by means of: financial and price policy measures. "People who cause traffic jams by using their cars in certain areas at certain times are just going to have to pay the price," they comment.

One possible solution would be to tax motorists who drive to and from work more heavily or indeed to tax them on the basis of their place of work rather than their home.

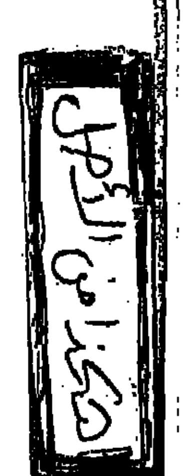
According to the report one car-owner in two drives to and from work. Current urban traffic problems can only be alleviated if the use of private cars for certain purposes is limited.

Restrictive measures are an obvious necessity. Parking facilities, for instance, would have to be revised on the basis of scarcity and use of room available. Long-term parking in city centres would have to be made far more expensive and tax concessions for commuting motorists abolished.

The increasing number of motorists who do drive to and from work do so, the authors of the report surmise, for a variety of reasons that add up to convenience.

Public transport fares are also a handicap. "Paying the fare as you board the vehicle is a psychological mistake because the traveller is immediately confronted with the full cost of the journey," the authors maintain.

(Münchner Merkur, 8 January 1972)



■ THINGS SEEN

Art of the Paris Commune on exhibition in Berlin



At the beginning of the year *die Neue Gesellschaft für bildende Kunst* in Berlin illustrated the theme of pictorial art and its functions in our society with a major exhibition.

In addition the other *Neue Gesellschaft* exhibition entitled "The Paris Commune 1871" at the Haus am Lützowplatz can be taken as dealing with this general theme.

What does political involvement mean to the artist? And what does the Marxist theorem of History as the history of class struggles signify for the art historian? In theoretical disucssions such questions are often kept on an abstract level and are often degraded to the level of a fashionable *aperçu*.

At this exhibition, however, the effect is specific and complete with art-history substance, with pictures and drawings, caricatures, photographs and posters from the days of the Commune.

This material comprises works by Daumier, Doré and Manet as well as examples of the so-called popular graphic art (such as the Epinal prints), but also works by artists who are now unkown, whose political wit and graphic charm was given quality and portent by the new medium of lithography comparable to the link between a political upheaval and a new medium that came with the coincidence of the silent film and the Russian Revolution.

The Berlin exhibition does not in fact present its material in the light of formal categories (such as "trivial art" or "commissioned art") but arranges it according to the historical process of conflict between the bourgeoisie and proletariat which led to the Paris Commune and the first proletarian revolution.

In this respect pictorial art serves the purpose of documenting an event from history which even today is ignored or even reviled by bourgeois historians. Examples of this are provided at the exhibition with quotes from the history books used at the time in French schools.

The Paris Commune of 1871 came into being during the Franco-Prussian War. It had at one and the same time to fight against the bourgeois government in Versailles under Thiers and Faure and to withstand the Prussian siege.

It held out only 72 days. But it still took its place in the history of the workers' movements partly because its mere working existence gave new yardsticks on which Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels were able to build up their theories of the State and revolution.

Artists who came out on the side of the Commune reflect in their works not just the historical process, but rather with their means, artistic methods, try to take an active part in the political controversies.

In this respect a major role is taken over by lithography. In 1870-71 alone, from the beginning of the Franco-Prussian War until the suppression of the Commune in that bloody week in May, more than 6,000 lithographs were produced, according to estimates made by French collectors.

Honoré Daumier, who had already used the lithographic caricature in the days of the July Monarchy and the Second Empire as a powerful weapon on the side of the Republican Opposition and had developed this method for these political ends, came out on the side of the Commune, for instance in the confrontation of both suggestions put forward as a means of solving the rent question as presented by the Commune and the Versailles government.

Two of the most prolific and gifted partisans of the Commune come from the Daumier school, namely André Gill and Alfred le Petit.

Apart from them the other great champions of the Commune were the sketchers and graphic artists Pilotell, Faustin and Moloch.

Even the only talented caricaturist who came out on the side of the reactionaries, Cham, alias Comte Amadeus de Noé, is indebted to Honoré Daumier stylistically.

One good point about this exhibition is that is does give both sides of the picture and shows caricatures directed against the Commune.

But apart from Cham there does not seem to be one artist with particular gifts who took up his brush and pen against the Commune.

"My joy is unbounded. Paris is truly a paradise, no police, no stupidity, no extortion of any kind whatsoever and no quarrels ... All corporations have been joined up into federations and are holding together. And it was I along with the artists who set the example in all spheres."

These euphoric words were written by Gustave Courbet to his parents on 30 April 1871.

His political involvement, formed by Proudhon, had led him to take the side of the Communards. Courbet became President of the artists' federation, a member of the Commune, a city councillor and the man responsible for educational affairs.

In this position he took the decision to carry on with the Commune and to tear down the Vendôme column as a symbol of Imperialism.

For this political destruction of a monument, which the reactionaries later reviled as an act of barbarous iconoclasm the ageing Courbet was thrown into the Sainte Pélagie prison after the collapse of the Commune.

The Berlin exhibition is only able to show reproductions of the sketches he produced there, and which are today in the Louvre.

But apart from this there is a surprising amount of interesting original material coming mainly from the galleries St Denis and Montreuil, near Paris, and f the private collection of the Berlin s Arwed D. Gorella.

The exhibition is rounded off excellent background material on works on show, giving a glimpse of content of this exhibition and comm ing on it with informative essays addition to this *die Neue Gesellschaft* published four textbooks in w French and German historians discus social and political background to Commune.

Two of these contain the songs and political graffiti of the days of Commune, which are presented thus the first time ever in the German lang ge.

Karoll Stö

(Die Zeit, 31 December 1



Contemporary woodblock of the barricades in Paris 1871

(Photo: Kat

Der Blaue Reiter art school started sixty years ago

Exactly sixty years ago, at the turn of 1911-12 a group of artists in Munich calling themselves *Der Blaue Reiter* held an exhibition under the same title. This show lasted for about a year and was an epoch-making art event in the truest sense of the word.

There is an actual *Blauer Reiter* (Rider in blue). It is by the Russian Vasily Kandinsky, Impressionist in its artistic concept, its colour and form. It shows a man on horseback in a blue cloak with a blue biretta galloping across heathland in autumn.

The picture is more an expression of Kandinsky's own consciousness than a programmatic work starting off a new art movement, his friends claim.

It has no more than the name in common with the art movement and the artistic aims of the group, which at first dubbed itself "The editorial staff – Der Blaue Reiter" for the purposes of the exhibition, and the aims of the art almanac also under the title "Der blaue Reiter", which was published shortly afterwards and has now become one of the most valuable works of art literature.

Some years afterwards Kandinsky explained how the name had arisen. In this context he mentioned his good friend Franz Marc, whose works "Rote Pferde" (Red Horses) and "Der Turm der blauen Pferde" (The Tower of Blue Horses) are an integral part of the history of art in the twentieth century.

Kandinsky said: "We invented the name *Der blaue Reiter* at coffee in the garden in Sindelsdorf (where Franz Marc lived with his wife). We both loved blue, Marc horses, myself riders. And so the name invented itself."

The text in the almanac with *Der blaue Reiter* as the title picture was more high-flown, saying: "We want to start an almanac which will become a mouthpiece for all genuine new ideas of our day in music, painting the stage, etcetera."

The other founder members of the group, themselves known as "blue riders" at the time, apart from Kandinsky and Marc were August Macke, Gabriele Münter and Alfred Kubin.

They formed their own breakaway group during the preparations for the



annual exhibition of the Neue Künstlervereinigung in Munich when a violent quarrel broke out over the rejection of Kadinsky's picture *Das jüngste Gericht* (Day of judgment).

They annexed half of the exhibition area of Munich's Tannhauser Gallery which the Neue Künstlervereinigung had already hired for its own exhibition.

Apart from the pictures on show by the secessionist group there was a motley collection ranging from Realism to Abstract. The difference was not only taken seriously, but was also respected. Thus *Der blaue Reiter* became an assembly of the most varied schools, styles and trends, including Orphism, Cubism, Futurism and Early Expressionist, as well as others too numerous to mention.

The essence of the breakaway wa use the means of the spirit and imag tion to face a materialistic world and depiction in pictorial art, to work fr naive realisation to the dissolution objectivity with free colour and form adhering to any strict rules.

Thus alongside the pictures of the n Realist Henry Rousseau there hang expressions of the architectural imag tion of Robert Delaunay.

His pictures of the Eiffel Tower h inspired some of the Modernists of time such as Pol Bury. Marc exhibited animal pictures, Macke some real works and an abstract improvisation well, and Kandinsky put on show w works that tended towards the abst and others that went all the way there.

In among these were some real curio pictures by Arnold Schoenberg, who today known only for his musical co positions.

The *Münchner Neueste Nachrich* wrote of the *Blaue Reiter* school: " must either assume that this is a col tion of imbeciles or that they are sha less bluffers hoping to take advantag the need for sensationalism which is t today and cash in on it."

In answer to this criticism we h Franc Marc's statement: "Today se have become so blunted when consid artistic form and points of view becoming so banal that an outw resemblance to Nature is taken as acceptable criterion for art apprecia Brains have become so lazy that they no longer make the distinction betw the urge to copy and the drive to prod a work of art."

Following the Munich exhibitio which moved on to the Gereonsclub Cologne, to Herwarth Walden's Gall "Der Sturm" in Berlin, to Bremen, Ha and Frankfurt, there was a *Blaue Re*

Continued on page 11

■ BALLET

Dreams replace reality in two Neumeier ballet productions

It is almost frightening to see John Neumeier, the young choreographer from Frankfurt, outclassing old masters and fashionable new hands at ballet and giving his productions a rarely found dimension.

Ballet, music, decor and plot become a visual union in Neumeier's hands. Ballet for him is not a succession of steps fitted to some piece of music where the actual choice of work is incidental.

Nor does he look upon choreography as an end in itself. He believes that it serves the figures, plot, characters, moods and yearnings.

The most recent Neumeier premieres in Frankfurt link two of the most feared ballet works – Stravinsky's *Fairy Kiss* and Ravel's *Daphnis and Chloë*.

Both works appear at first glance to be too fine for the sober world of the stage. Both belong to the ballet visions that cannot be realised but only recreated – and Neumeier achieves this.

He found an aide of the highest standard in stage-designer Jürgen Rose. The sets Rose conceived for the two ballets are among the unforgettable features of the ballet evening. They created both dancing-space and living-space for the works.

When the fairy in Stravinsky's ballet disappears into the distance behind opening and closing screens of veils and draws her lover in her wake and when in *Daphnis and Chloë* the metallic glinting of the sun falling over the brown-patched Greece forces the audience to close their eyes for a number of seconds only to turn into a rainbow and let the nymphs down from the sky, we realise that the theatre is a long way from having lost its old power over intellect and emotion but has only forgotten how to exert it.

The evening was a rejection of fashionable mediocrity, a challenge and a new way of thinking that need not apply only to ballet.

But it is perhaps symptomatic that it is a choreographer like Neumeier, a man of the younger generation, who builds up a picture of an intact theatre, if not an intact world.

With his productions of Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* and Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* Neumeier had already shown



that he was the most important dramatist among choreographers – and the most important choreographer among dramatists.

Neumeier starts off once again by reorganising the story-line of the ballets. He adds a short prologue to *Fairy Kiss* to feature the two Tchaikovsky pieces that Stravinsky later quotes.

They become a musical motif of yearning which causes the downfall of the hero of the ballet. They are the lure of a world behind the Swiss mountains and beyond reality.

Reality and desire diverge. The person and his dream face each other in a suite of rebellion, satisfaction, sacrifice and the exit into the freedom of the uncertain.

Neumeier shows the dangers of yearning before Jürgen Rose's opening and closing curtains with their colourful folklore elements for the interiors and the rich natural green and the shadow-banishing white that finally extinguish the respectable bourgeois world.

Marianna Kruuse plays the abandoned bride with fine simplicity. Persephone Samaropoulo plays the seductress from the world of the spirits and possesses the required ethereal brilliance.

Maximo Barra acts the extremely pleasant young man whose staid respectability is confused for ever by the world of the fairies. He is a frank and sincere dancer and proves to be an excellent partner in the pas de deux. Fred Howald is his double, his nagging spirit, and he dances this tricky role with great decorum.

The dreams, escape and ecstatic love that form the subject of *Fairy Kiss* are also found in Neimeier's version of Maurice Ravel's *Daphnis and Chloë*.

Here too reality fades before the eyes of a sleeping scholar who sailed to Greece as a tourist long before the advent of package holidays.

Neumeier sets the work in the time it was written, that is around 1912. He confronts the antique with fashionable antiquity. But the costumes are interchangeable. Gay sailors suddenly become pirates, an old school fiend becomes Chloë and the young man is Daphnis, the god. Triviality is raised to the mythical. But everything remains clear and tender. Time levels merge. Life is a dream and the dream is life. Marianne Kruuse and Truman Finney are in the lead roles, encouraged by Beatrice Cordua, Maximo Barra and the whole ensemble who obviously feel well-controlled by Neumeier's skilful hand. Peter Schrottner conducted the demanding scores with intensity and feeling.

Klaus Geitel

(Die Welt, 5 January 1972)



Scene from Neumeier's production of *Daphnis and Chloë*

(Photo: Günter Englert)

continued from page 10

exhibition of graphic art in Munich in February 1912.

The list of names involved in this sounds like a Hall of Fame of twentieth century art. New arrivals included: Hans Arp, George Braques, André Derain, Paul Klee, Pablo Picasso, Maurice Vlaminck and a number of artists from the Dresden *Brücke* group of 1905: Erich Heckel, Ernst Ludwig Kirschner, Otto Müller, Emil Nolde and Max Pechstein.

Blauer Reiter was not an institution so much as a group and movement consisting of the progressives of the day. It quickly began to be a watchword in European galleries. It united Germans, French and Russians with no heed paid to nationalities until the group disintegrated.

August Macke was killed in action on 26 September 1914 during an attack on French trenches in the Champagne district. Franz Marc fell on 4 March 1916 near Verdun.

Pictures by the artists who united themselves under the *Blaue Reiter* banner are now – sixty years on – an essential part of the history of modern art.

Ernst Thiel

(Kieler Nachrichten, 29 December 1971)

Werle opera has German premiere in Wuppertal

The West German premiere in Wuppertal of Lars Johan Werle's opera *Thérèse a Dream* is a late justification of Rolf Liebermann's decision to commission a work from this 45-year-old Swedish composer.

The fact that the commissioned opera – *The Giant* – did not live up to the promise now found in brilliant form in *Thérèse* is one of the inevitable risks involved in commissioning works of art.

Thérèse was first performed in Stockholm in 1964 and, as the Wuppertal production showed beyond any shadow of doubt, it is one of the most convincing and impressive works of a musical theatre exceeding by far the traditional limits of opera.

The audience at the production in Stockholm's Arena Theatre were seated between the stage and the groups of musicians placed along the walls of the rotunda-shaped auditorium.

At the production in Wuppertal's Opera House the stage jutted out into the audience while the musicians under Janos Kulka and a co-conductor sat on either side of the stage where the action went on between, next to and above them on the various levels of Hanna Jordan's ingeniously arranged set with its splendid empty picture frame where the film sequences are projected.

It was here that Kurt Horres staged the episodes around the lives of dreamer Julien (Willi Nett) and the nymphomaniac Thérèse (Harriet Stubbe) – based freely on Zola's short story *Pour une nuit d'amour* – as such a surrealistic succession of painfully overexposed forms that it was at times like an Ingmar Bergman film.

The events lead inevitably to downfall, sexual murder and suicide while Thérèse walks to the altar by the side of a count and accompanied by a raging on the organ and a voice monotonously repeating "In her white bridal dress she looked like majestic grace and innocence personified." Bourgeois society claims as its victims those who try to escape its norms – Julien the dreamer, Colombel the lover and even Thérèse herself who is not accepted as a full member of this society until all her basic energies have petered out. The most different stylistic methods are used with a majestic sense of drama to split up the action and show past and future events, thus giving the one and a half hour work an unusually dense and complex story-line.

The story-line is carried by music that is stylistically variable though homogenous in its evocation of a basic lyrical mood and that ranges between the monologue of dream and exalted hysteria. The flute and guitar emancipate themselves time and again from the musical groups to give impressive solos.

The music ranges from the quotations of folk-songs – though alienated – to the electronic fade-ins of realistic noises and stereophonically manipulated sound collages.

Looking back on opera premieres in the recent past, it will be easy to judge the quality of Werle's score, its individuality and its dramatic nerve.

The production at Wuppertal gave full expression to these qualities with lasting visual effect. Of all new operas presented in Wuppertal in recent years Werle's *Thérèse a Dream* is certainly the most substantial.

Horst Koegler

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 5 January 1972)

Scene from Werle's opera *Thérèse a dream* (Photo: Kurt Saurin-Sorani)

■ EDUCATION

Stone Age attitudes start to recede in education

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Residual thumbs are important to the common mouse and valve-curves are as indispensible to high frequency engineers as Tarquinus Priscus is to historians.

But it is now being realised, however gradually, that there are important school subjects which have been criminally neglected when compared with the residual thumbs of the common mouse and other subjects.

The demand for sex education for example is a sign that all types of school are gradually turning to the more practical and more relevant things of life.

Let us take sex education as this is the subject closest to life. Sex lessons are normally taken by the biology teacher who is responsible for human as well as for mouse anatomy.

He can at least treat sex as an anatomical and physiological problem – the spheres covered by his subject – and throw in a few words and phrases such as "love partnership" or "fateful encounter".

Children are no longer trained only to be engineers or businessmen with an adequate general eduaction but they are also taught how to become parents.

So it seems, at any rate. Knowing how children are produced, or prevented, is part of the elementary knowledge that future love partners and married couples will need to possess in order not to let nature run its free course.

The Education Ministers Conference has now proposed that caesarian births should be explained to six and seven-year-olds and that talks on the sexual act between married couples should be held with nine and ten-year-olds as a central feature of sex education.

Whether or not this is right must be left to children's psychiatrists. But the too little information once given at too late a stage now seems to have been replaced by too much information too early. Fourteen-year-olds learn everything about contraception though this is only right as the "consequences" at this age are acute.

But then we are faced by ignorance of what a child really is, how it should be brought up and how it should be helped in its development. For the average parent a child is still, to use the words of the film, an unknown entity or, worse still, a misunderstood entity. This means that it is also an entity that is treated and maltreated in ignorance.

The ignorance concerning *who* a child is, as well as *what* it is, concerning the laws and phases of its development and the dangers of a false or inadequate upbringing which can damage the child has been passed down from generation to generation and has been tolerated and concealed so matter-of-factly and incomprehensibly that the only reaction to these Stone Age attitudes must be one of alarm.

It could be claimed that people have had and raised children since the Stone Age and that these children have grown up big and strong. There have always been the weak and invalid but that is part of life.

Why is there now so much fuss about bringing up children as if all parents, ranging from Adam and Eve to the respectable middle-class family of today, were morons as far as raising their offspring was concerned? Bringing up children is as natural as producing them!

Only a second's thought will show us that this is not the case – even if the parent-child relationship can be traced back to the Stone Age when children who were different in some way and did not conform were cold-shouldered and left to die.

These inhuman primitive practices are still usual today in principle despite peripheral attempts to alleviate the situation through kindergartens, nurseries, schools and other educative communities, apart from the popular education with pictures that can be found between reports of murders and Soraya's heartache.

The fault lies at the basis. Schools as educational institutions do not generally plan to train children to be parents as well as progenitors. As a result, parents, the child's first and therefore most important and effective educators, are the least trained of all for this role.

Men and women submit themselves to the destiny of love and marriage and produce children with the same gay abandon as animals. After that every thing is to proceed along the right lines.

And things do proceed along the right lines, as always in the old Stone Age traditions: Come here – get out! Quiet! That's right! Don't you dare do that! And so forth.

We are well acquainted with the plus-minus mechanism of the threat of punishment and the promise of reward, of hurtful reproach and flattering praise.

But this has little to do with sensible criticism and praise as it is too general, too convenient and as a result too impersonal. The child is treated not as a person but as something that can be manipulated. But, as we have said, the method works and it must work as it consists of carrying on until it does work.

The trend to unauthoritarian education is not just a fashionable gimmick but a settlement of accounts with the millenia when children were broken in like horses, frequently for political or religious reasons. Little or no understanding was needed, understanding was weakness or a concession.

As the breaking-in era is coming to an end the age of understanding must begin systematically and not spasmodically. It must begin *in school*, up to now the only place of systematic education, so that it can begin in the parental home, initiated and prompted from the school.

The children who leave school as adults will no longer confront *their* children as untrained educators. A child's upbringing will then no longer be conducted in such ignorance, chaos, contradiction and pseudo-wisdom and other uncomplimentary terms that can be applied to an education that degenerates into mismanagement, deprivation and discipline.

Parental training as part of a school education will not of course work wonders overnight. But everything the school does for future parents as well as future engineers and businessmen will be well worth the effort if the number of children harmed by a bad upbringing is cut. Or are good engineers more important than good parents?

It almost seems as if they are. Children are not raised to become people in a *community* and parents of their children but are mainly stuffed full of general and specialised knowledge. This surfeit leads to the reluctance and inability to learn any more.

The realisation that nobody can need to know so much, strengthened by the knowledge that the older children have forgotten it anyway, begins to spread, paralysing everything in its way, even the need for essential, indispensable information.

Essential information, apart from fundamental specialised knowledge, is mainly information about the essence, the essence of Man and not the essence of mice.

Bringing up a person to live as part of the human community has for millenia been no more than a peripheral factor, a feature in readers or something that was tacked on to religious instruction. Schools always concentrated on a technical or a classical education.

That is why the most important demand today is to help the child understand himself and others and teach him the basic knowledge about the development of a child, the ways of fostering this development and the dangers threatening it. Only if children are understood and themselves understand will they one day have children who are likewise understood.

What does this mean to practical education at schools? Firstly, children in the six to ten age range will not be given psychology lessons. They will be given instead something that could be described as practice in communicative behaviour and this will not be limited to a few hours a week but will extend over the whole syllabus.

When the educative curse of ambitious rivalry is banished, the child's ability to identify himself with others will be awoken and will grow during talks with his teacher and fellow-pupils.

This ability can be strengthened by special conversation classes in which children are allowed to speak of themselves instead of about some specific subject.

This will help children to get to know each other more closely and will enable them to put themselves in another person's position. In such a free atmosphere of self-description and questions and answers there can be a catharsis and an end to any states of frustration caused by the parental home.

The important factor is to draw up a graduated programme for basic psychological education based primarily on the psychology of children and the young so that the child is equipped with the tools enabling him in future to understand any children of his own.

The basic course in psychology will begin with group practice in communicative behaviour and continue with psychological instruction or discussion, all depending on the age of the child.

There is a fatal gap in the knowledge of young people about the essential features of Man, the way he feels and reacts, the factors that liberate or paralyse him, fulfil or frustrate him. This gap *must* be closed even at the cost of gaps in more harmless sectors of knowledge that can be filled in if needed later on in professional life.

But gaps in knowledge involving life within a community cannot be remedied by universities or night school, especially as adult education cannot be prescribed by the State.

Everybody has to go to school as a child and it is only there that *everybody* can receive a sex education and, more important, the training to be a good parent.

Anton Neuhäusler

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 5 January 1972)

Education spending up

Local and government expenditure on education in 1971 was allocated 20,100 million Marks, the Federal Statistics bureau states. This figure does not take into account the restriction on expenditure following the stabilisation programme announced by the government on 9 May 1971.

The figure is also twenty per cent up on the amounts budgeted for 1970 and almost a third more than the 15,300 million Marks that are calculated to have been spent on education in 1969.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 5 January 1972)

SCHOOL NOTES

Workers' children

New figures published by the Fe[d] Statistics Bureau show that [...] and more working-class children a[re] dying at the Federal Republic's 52 u[niver]sities.

One student in three came fro[m] academic background in the 1966 w[inter] term. Three years later it was only o[ne in] four.

The proportion of the childr[en of] white-collar workers without an aca[demic] degree and of working-class pare[nts is] continuing to rise. The figure fo[r the] 1969 winter term was more than 3[...] cent while three years earlier it had been 31 per cent despite the fact tha[t the] number of workers in the Federal Re[pub]lic in on the decrease.

(Handelsblatt, 28 December 1[971])

EEC education

The West German government be[lieves] that increased cultural and edu[catio]nal cooperation is an important ele[ment] in the policy of European unific[ation,] Klaus von Dohnanyi, the Parliame[ntary] State Secretary in the Education [and] Science Ministry, stated in reply [to a] CDU/CSU question in the Bundesta[g].

His answer, published in Bonn a[t the] end of December, also included [the] statement that the government bel[ieves] educational cooperation within the C[om]mon Market should be based on [...] principles.

The first principle is that the social [...] economic progress of the commu[nity] should be fostered. Secondly, t[here] should be an integration of joint e[cono]mic and everyday life. Thirdly, [the] inclusion of this important sector sh[ould] help back efforts towards political u[nity].

To foster efforts aimed towards c[...] cooperation in the cultural and edu[catio]nal sphere, the government propos[es the] establishment of a special working g[roup] – over and above the regular meetin[gs of] the education ministers – to discu[ss] important questions in this field.

The first step towards closer coop[era]tion should be the recognition of [...] other countries' diplomas, examin[ation] certificates and other qualifications, [the] free movement of teachers and stude[nts,] the joint investigation and develop[ment] of new educational methods and [...] research into and production of techn[ical] teaching aids.

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 29 December 1[971])

Top exhibitor

Some 780 exhibitors from 25 [coun]tries are expected to attend [the] eleventh Didacta, the European Ed[uca]tional Aids Trade Fair being held [in] Hanover between 14 and 18 March 1[972].

The Deutsche Messe- und Ausstellu[ngs] AG, the company organising the [...] announced in Hanover that the So[viet] Union would once again be represe[nted.] More than three hundred exhibitors [are] expected from abroad.

Some 360,000 square feet of exhibi[tion] area have already been let. Apart fr[om] Russia, other Eastern European count[ries] like Czechoslovakia, Poland, Rum[ania] and Hungary will be present at Dida[cta].

The largest foreign participation co[mes] from Britain with 64 exhibitors follo[wed] by France with 28 and Switzerland w[ith] 25.

(Neue Hannoversche Pre[sse,] 30 December 19[71])

■ THE SCIENCES

Geologists expect flood of information from new surveying techniques

Aerial photographs may help to trace industrial concerns illegally releasing waste effluent in the foreseeable future now that the Ministry of the Interior has commissioned research into how such pictures can be used in establishing impurities in water.

The West German Association for Air and Space Travel recently held a symposium in Munich to discuss the uses of aerial photography and other modern remote sensing techniques.

Unlike active remote sensing techniques in which radar transmitters or, more recently, laser beams are used for the aerial reconnaissance of the Earth's surface, passive methods only register the radiation emitted by surface objects themselves or the reflected solar radiation with the aid of appropriate sensor systems.

The range of the electromagnetic spectrum covered exceeds that of visible light by stretching into the lower infra-red range and also includes the medium and higher infra-red ranges between 3.5 and 5 and between 8 and 14 microns.

As rocks, soils, water and plants do not reflect sunlight equally strongly in all wavelengths, researchers have developed remote sensor techniques that register only certain sections of the spectrum such as the blue-green range or the lower infra-red range.

In multispectral photography the same stretch of land is photographed simultaneously by a number of cameras in an aircraft or satellite. Because of a special combination of film filters each camera covers a specific area of the spectrum.

In many of the photographs the surface objects that are the centre of interest will stand out more clearly from their environment than on a panchromatic black and white print.

But multispectral photography is unable to provide any quantitative data about individual rocks and plants as each camera, film and developing technique is different and, moreover, only relative differences of colour or brightness can be determined. It is impossible to gauge. For this grid picture equipment such as line scanners and television cameras are needed.

Detectors have the same function in scanners as the film in a camera. They measure the intensity of the radiation in each spectral range and this can be recorded on tape or on film strips something like aerial photographs. The measurements can be converted into digits and fed into a computer.

Geologist P. Kronberg of Clausthal Technical University believes that the multispectral scanning of the Earth's surface for purposes such as geological surveys will not be perfected until more is known about the reflective characteristics of rocks, soils and water. Until then researchers will be faced by a flood of data that they only partly understand.

Geologists are pressing more and more for photographs covering large areas of 150 by 150 kilometres and further demand that two objects fifty yards apart should be seen plainly to be separated from one another.

That is why attempts are now being made to develop suitable television cameras. The central feature of such a camera is an exposure tube where incoming light produces local electric charges on a photosensitive layer. The strenght of the charge increases with the intensity of the light.

The stored charge pattern is screen processed by an electron beam, providing an electric signal that is further processed electronically.

The Satellite Electronics Institute at the Air and Space Travel Research and Experimental Establishment in Oberpfaffenhofen is working on a multispectral television camera system.

The picture of the Earth's surface is to be taken by a normal vidicon tube which has had its powers of exposure increased by a special system of optics consisting of three groups of three lens.

Each group concentrates on a narrow strip of the Earth's surface and transmits the data from three different spectral areas on to the photosensitive layer. As each group covers an angle of fifteen degrees, this system covers a total angle of 45 degrees. The ERTS-A Nasa satellite to be launched in the spring of 1972 will show what geology can really expect from the multispectral scanner systems and television cameras. Researchers are already expecting a flood of information, far outstripping the data provided today by weather satellites. Nasa is investing no less than a quarter of a million dollars for processing data obtained during the ERTS programme.

C. Steuer

(FAZ für Deutschland 5 January 1972)

Solar battery for the West German satellite to be launched this spring (Photo: Schott)

Drop in male life expectancy

Life expectancy is increasing only for women. The Trades Union Press Service states that the life expectancy for men decreases after the age of 25 because of the increased accident rate.

In 1975 a thirty-year-old will have six months less life ahead of him that a thirty-year-old in 1951. The life expectancy of a 65-year-old will decrease by more than a year during the same period.

(Die Welt, 21 December 1971)

Radar to solve mysteries of bird migration

Radar antennae now rotating at Hanover airport and on the Deister mountain range may be used in ornithology as well as for purposes of air safety in the next few years.

Radar in the Hanover area is to help solve the fascinating mysteries of bird migration between the nesting-places in the north and the winter homes in the south, the first scheme of its kind in the Federal Republic.

The Frankfurt-based Institute for Air Safety has a vital interest in allowing scientists to make use of radar equipment. The large flocks of birds represent a major danger factor to aviation, especially at higher altitudes.

An application has been made to receive money for the research project from the income raised on the football pools. If this is granted Dr Hans Oelke, a lecturer at Göttingen University and head of the zoological section of Hanover's Landesmuseum, and Hans Wolpers, a physicist and mathematician at Hildesheim College of Education, will start their radar observations this March and April as the birds fly northwards.

Ornithologists have never been able to use radar to track birds in the Federal Republic before because of the need for military secrecy but zoologists in Britain, Switzerland and the United States have already come up with some surprising results after using this method.

British ornithologists for instance found that in the autumn large flocks of birds flew from Scandinavia via England to France in one night to avoid an area of rough weather. Their movements could never have been tracked on such a large scale if it had not been for the radar.

Dr Hans Oelke would like to conduct round-the-clock observations two months a year for five years on the flocks of birds over the area around Hanover.

Quick-motion cameras in front of the radar screens will register all bird movement. During daylight hours the scientists will have the birds observed by volunteers scattered throughout the area. Their observations will complete the findings obtained from the radar screen. The observations will gradually be spread to cover the whole year.

"We want to find out what type of birds cross the North German plain when, at what height and in what number," Dr Oelke explained.

The behaviour of the birds as they approach such a large industrial and residential conurbation as Hanover will be of interest to science as well as to air safety, he added.

No one yet knows whether the flocks of birds feel attracted by the sea of lights and congegrate around the area or whether they are alarmed by conurbations and make a diversion around them.

Dr Oelke expects most of the birds to be at an altitude of between 1,500 and 4,500 feet. Radar observations will begin at nine hundred feet. The wild ducks and wild geese will probably cross over the Hanover area at a height of between 1,500 and 6,000 feet.

"It is quite possible that the radar screens will at night pick up flocks of birds that have left southern Scandinavia or even northern Russia the previous

Hannoversche Allgemeine

evening on a non-stop flight of more than a thousand kilometres to the Rhine-Main area where they will make their first landing," Dr Oelke states.

"Perhaps we will also be able to find out the departure-point and destination of the flocks of finches that surprise us every autumn," he adds.

As interesting and valuable the scientific results of the radar observation may be, they will prove of greatest use to aviation. It will be easier to calculate the dangerous situations caused by flocks of birds and it may even be possible to avoid them." A detailed knowledge of the characteristics of bird migration could well be demanded from pilots one day.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 6 January 1972)

■ ISLAND PROFILE

Wangerooge – a sea-threatened island

Mayor Hermann Jansen spoke with mixed sentiments when he pointed out that Wangerooge, an island in the North Sea and the most easterly of the seven East Frisian islands, has become a national talking point since the West German press began to draw public attention to the fact that the island was endangered.

On the one hand Herr Jansen is pleased with the publicity which goes with the publication of these articles, but on the other hand he fears people will take the talk of danger too seriously.

He said: "I am worried that visitors who have come to us every year will fear that this year they will not be able to come. They are sure this year, as in previous years, that something must be done to safeguard the island."

The matter was pinpointed by Helmut Stratmann, Wilhelmshaven navigational engineer with a home on Wangerooge, who wrote an article in the *Nordwest Zeitung*. In his article he pointed out that there had been considerable erosion on the dunes "between the war memorial and the new lighthouse". He maintained that this erosion had become particularly serious over the past two years. He said that the seawaters had already penetrated once to this point and that it had been necessary to rebuild the dyke, built in 1874 and named the *Reichsdeich*, in order to avert the danger.

This dyke was no longer able to protect the island. The *Harle*, a water current flowing between Wangerooge and the neighbouring island of Spiekeroog, which ebbed and flowed twice daily, has changed course over the years so that the sandbanks no longer offer the island protection. The dunes are crumbling away slowly. Helmut Stratmann said: "There is too little sand in reserve. In the next medium-strong or strong tidal wave the seawater will engulf the island."

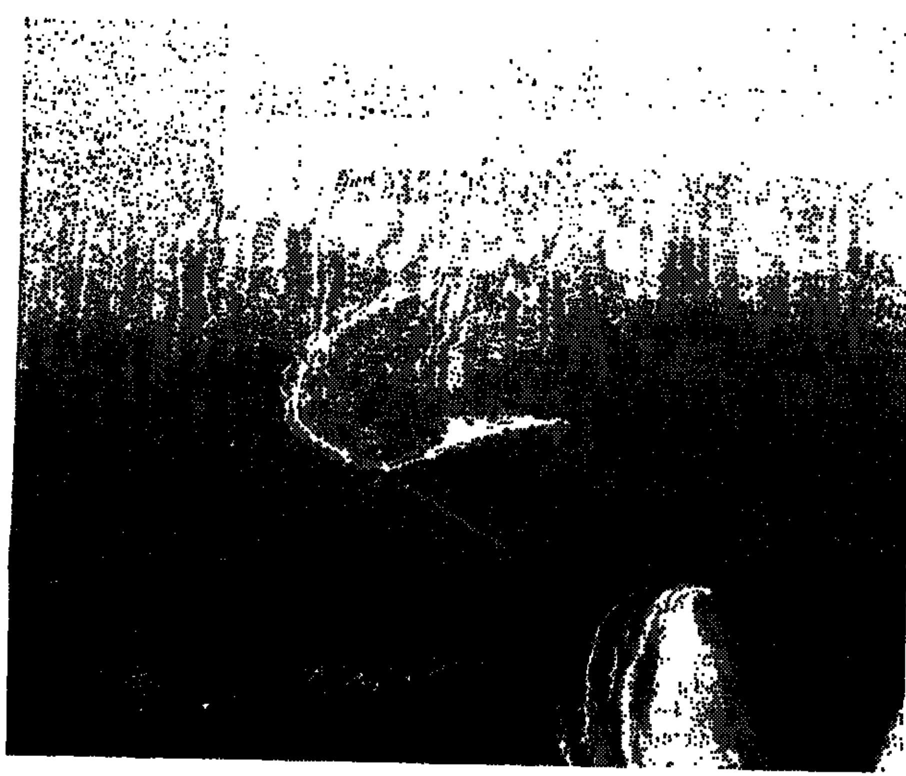
Herr Stratmann has sounded the alarm when the islanders can look forward to one of their best tourist seasons. The tourist season has become twice as long as it used to be and the 5,000 beds on the island available for holidaymakers have always been occupied. At the peak of the holiday season it is estimated that 8,000 people are on the island, the 1,800 islanders and visitors.

Wangerooge seems to be more popular with visitors than its neighbouring islands. Herr Jansen said: "The other islands show an increase in tourism of between five and ten per cent, but we have had a fifteen per cent increase."

Herr Jansen himself does well from the island's growing tourist interest for he has a small hotel with 35 beds and 25 ponies available for his guests.

Asked if he thought the work in running a hotel was worth the effort he guardedly replied: "Here everyone lives either directly or indirectly from tourism." A restaurateur who came to Wangerooge from the mainland said: "From the material point of view it is not so bad here."

Two days after Helmut Stratmann's warnings, Helmut Jansen invited the island's councillors to go with him to inspect the dunes. Not far from the new lighthouse, the waves, unimpeded by a dyke, washed up the shore as far as the dunes. It is true that at this point the waves were between nine and ten metres high, but at the calmest point along the dunes the waves were only three metres high. Erosion was clearly visible. He said:



An aerial view of Wangerooge
(Photo: Bildflug Hamburg, freigegeben vom Luftamt Hamburg Nr. 3722/71)

"Fortunately there has not been a heavy tide for a long time, and the waves have brought in sand for a depth of five metres over the past few years."

A special session of the island's council was called after the inspection. An appeal was made to Herr Oltmann, governmental head of Jever district, to inspect the dunes and accompanied with a committee of experts to have produced a topographical map. A report was sent to Bonn.

Maintenance of Wangerooge, as well as the island of Borkum, comes directly under the waterways department of the Transport Ministry. The Ministry took over these responsibilities from the navy, who before the war was answerable for "this stony promontary of the German fortifications."

A few days later Herr Jansen received assurances from Bonn that "urgent measures could be taken to protect sites particularly endangered."

Like all the islands that stretch along the West German coast the weak points all lie to the West. The wind that blows persistently from the west erodes the the islands depositing the sand on the easterly quarters. The islands, that date from the Ice Age, are slowly being displaced towards the east. Until the beginning of our technical era it has been impossible to arrest this displacement.

For example, Wangerooge has been displaced as much as two kilometres over the past 200 years. The village that was established in 1863 in the east is now in the middle of the island. And in any event it was the third village to be established on the island. The first settlement was occupied in 1327 when Captain Tiethard from Wangerooge and his crew were imprisoned there by the Dutch, but this island was swamped and disappeared in 1595.

The second village was built to the east.

The lighthouse that was built in 1957, was, two hundred years later in the middle of the island. It was the only building to survive the flooding of 1788 and it was finally destroyed by a massive storm on New Year's eve in 1854–1855. The island was then divided into three parts. The lighthouse was blown up in 1914 so as not to be a marker for British artillery. It was later rebuilt and is now a youth hostel.

Herr Jürgens, the island's historian and owner of a tea-room, said: "The local government in Oldenburg advised the islanders, after the catastrophe on New Year's eve 1854 to emigrate to the mainland. But only the rich left the island. The others remained on the island and established the third village in 1863, the third village that still exists today." The villagers then built their homes round the lighthouse which now marks the island's central point.

The 'poor' who remained behind did not have enough financial resources to protect themselves from the ravages of the sea. The water engineer of the time, Lasius, gave the alarm and wrote an article in which he claimed that soon the island would be the victim of a whirlwind against which nothing could be done to protect the island. Sand threatened to block the mouth of the river Jade and imperil projects to construct a naval base at Wilhelmshaven. A dyke, the *Reichsdeich*, was built by the Prussians and reunited the three parts of the island. Subsidies were offered to the 'rich' who wanted to return to live on the island.

The 1962 tidal wave destroyed the dykes that had been built to avert erosion on the eastern quarters of the island. They were rebuilt stronger and higher than previously. But the waves now concentrated on a spot where, between two dykes, a breach 1,200 metres long had been made.

The Federal Transport Ministry kept its word. Aided by bulldozers workmen on the first working day after Christmas placed along the shore concrete blocks which will enable the dunes to enrich themselves with sand. Plastic pipes filled with sand will be placed along the coast for the same purpose.

Meantime the waterways administration in Aurich has given approval for research and development into a project to build a concrete dyke to fill the breach in the island's weather defences.

This project will cost an estimated 20 million Marks. To build at Borkum, where the damage is the worst, estimated costs will be in the region of 35 million Marks.

Josef Schmidt

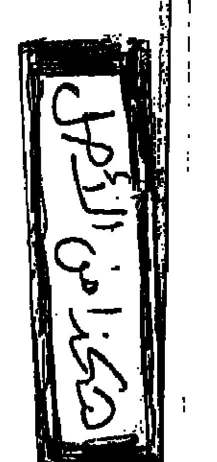
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 30 December 1971)

Avalanche danger

The danger of an avalanche of rock debris that threatened the Bavarian town of Tegernsee has been averted. The avalanche was located in the Alpbach valley, two kilometres to the east of the town. The alarm to the town was first sounded last December.

Two barriers have been built to contain the rock debris. Twelve lorries worked day and night to transport stone for the barriers. The rock debris which is descending in two arms has advanced three metres. Should the debris reach the two barriers it is possible to build others and eventually to divert the river Alpbach.

(Handelsblatt, 4 January 1972)



Clinic for young people suffering from stress

Managers disease does not af[flict] men of mature years who [have] assumed considerable responsibili[ty in] their professional life. Young peop[le are] also beset with this problem. They [find] intolerable the psychological and ph[ysical] stresses and strains that our industri[al] society imposes upon them.

The consequences are nervous [disor]ders, gastric upsets, heart trouble [and] damage to the vertebral column.

To deal with these troubles a cli[nic has] been established at Bad Steben, th[e first] of its kind in Europe designed for [such] patients.

The Bad Steben clinic cares for [young] girls between the ages of 15 and 2[1 who] have not yet completed their profe[ssional] training. The clinic is equipped wi[th the] most modern medical aids. The d[octors,] resident psychologists and speciali[sts in] internal medicine do all they can to [treat] the physical and psychological diso[rders] of their patients. They try to re-est[ablish] a psychological balance. Approxim[ately] 1,400 female patients are treated th[ere] a year.

The patients come from all [walks of life and] backgrounds: schoolgirls, girls under[going] an apprenticeship, students, young [women] already at work. Using the latest p[sycho]logical methods attempts are ma[de to] adjust girls' personalities and attitu[des to] their environment. The clinic's do[ctors] try to aid their patients to accommo[date] themselves to the stresses of life.

At first sight the Bad Steben clini[c does] not look a bit like a clinic. The gi[rls live] there as they would in a hostel a[nd the] doctors treat their patients just as i[f they] were just friends. The girls can [amuse] themselves as they like, dance, play,

Frankfurter **Neue Presse**

a course in cosmetics, go for [a] swim or do gymnastics.

On their first day at Bad St[eben] newcomers are given a general me[dical] examination and put through psy[cholo]gical tests. The girls are usually inte[rested] with their first encounter with the c[linic's] modern equipment.

The equipment used on the gi[rls re]sembles the equipment that is asso[ciated] with space travel. Girls who suffe[r from] circulatory diseases go for walks w[ith a] band round the waist that registers [blood] pressure as well as the heart beat. [The] band transmits signals to a compute[r. The] results are read to a doctor in attend[ance] by a computer expert.

A course of treatment lasts six w[eeks.] The clinic's director maintained: "B[efore] we set out on a course of trea[tment] careful note is taken of a pa[tient's] individuality and the treatment is [modi]fied accordingly." Groups are forme[d of] girls with similar treatment requirem[ents.]

Costs for construction of the [Bad] Steben clinic and for the equipment [with] which it is furnished reached th[e] million-Mark level. This was provide[d by] the West German insurance organis[ation] responsible for salaried workers.

A spokesman for the organisation s[aid:] "Spending this vast sum has in fact bee[n an] economy for us. The cost of these co[urses] of treatment are far less than having to [pay] a pension to a young person inc[apa]citated."

Experts are of the view that b[reak]downs in mental health due to [the] pressures of our technological society [are] going to increase in the future [–] notably among young people.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 31 December 1[971)]

■ SPORT

Experts and trainers discuss limits of human physical abilities

DIE ZEIT

Biomedicine and training was the subject of a conference held by the Amateur Athletics Association from 26 to 28 November 1971 in Mainz and attended by more than 400 delegates from at home and abroad.

The theme was so topical that a large number of leading specialists from this country and abroad not only attended but also addressed the conference, a detailed report on which is shortly to be published.

An appeal made to delegates towards the end of the conference by one speaker was characteristic to the point of rating as one of the conclusions reached.

He called on athletics (as opposed to medical) practitioners to rely more than they have been doing on their own instincts, on an empirical approach based on practical experience.

This, then, came at the end of an unquestionably satisfactory encounter between specialists in a variety of disciplines and likewise highly-qualified trainers and coaches.

On more than one occasion the dilemma that confronts academic researchers into sport made its presence felt. A one-sided approach based on the scientific discipline of the investigator hampers practical application of results. Indeed, results that appear entirely valid under laboratory conditions and for the guinea pigs involved can by no means be applied wholesale in the practice of top-flight competitive sport.

The coaches declared themselves only too willing to turn to scientists for advice but accused the scientists of all too often publishing research results that prove of no practical use.

The scientists replied in kind. How, they asked, can useful research be carried out and behaviour examined under specific experimental conditions when top-flight athletes of the calibre of, say, hammer-thrower Uwe Beyer or sprint and pentathlon star Heide Rosendahl are not available as guinea pigs?

There again, can a top-flight athlete afford to sacrifice part of his short life at the top for research purposes?

The methodical problems relating to biomechanics, sport medicine and sport psychology research projects of a practical and relevant kind are, of course, difficult but one point made met with the wholehearted approval of all concerned.

Top-flight sport today takes athletes to the limit of physical and psychic endurance. These limits must be defined in order to forestall damage and this calls for inter-disciplinary research and cooperation.

Record-breaking is a sum total of physical and psychic factors the study of which cries out for the abandoning of isolated individual approaches.

It was a great pity that only a bare half-day could be devoted to the psychology of competitive sport. It would seem to be only a matter of time before therapeutic means will be use to regulate athletes (or manipulate them, as Steinbach says).

There can hardly be a coach who would not give his eye teeth psychically to stabilise unstable and excitable athletes by means of sure-fire methods of relaxation. What the psychologists had to say at Mainz proved of no immediate practical use in this respect.

Both sides, as it were, agreed that there are definite orthopaedic limits to further progress. All that definitely stands in the way of extending training, that is, is the of the human body and its cartilages, tendons and muscles.

Continual strain and the properties of, say, synthetic tracks are increasingly leading to body changes at weak spots athletes, coaches and orthopaedic surgeons know only too well.

Prophylactic and therapeutic measures were debated in a rostrum discussion involving Messrs Schneider, Groh, Schoberth, Vorobiev and Kudu of the Soviet Union, Jonath, Oberbeck and Kolitzus (the last-named an engineer) but there appeared to be no clear way out of the dilemma.

Controversy arose among sport medicine specialists over the demand made by Professor Mellerowicz for an upper limit to training, his experiments with untrained identical twins having proved that a short period of intensive training has better results than a steady grind.

Dr Mellerowicz was left out on a limb, his colleagues Keul and Groh pointing out how difficult it is to apply laboratory results to top-flight athletics in practice. Practice has indeed proved Mellerowicz wrong.

No new ideas were forthcoming on weight training. There can be no doubt that an increase in strength is accompanied by an increase in muscle speed and provided muscular movement is coordinated there can be no such thing as too much strength. Isometric training, once much in fashion, was given the thumbs-down. "We haven't used it in Russia for years," Kudu said. The advantage of dynamic weight training lies in the combination of coordination, concentration on the desired muscular movements and elimination of muscles and groups of muscles that tend to handicap the desired aim. Isokinetic training seems to be on the advance but it remains to be seen whether it too will not prove to be the latest fad.

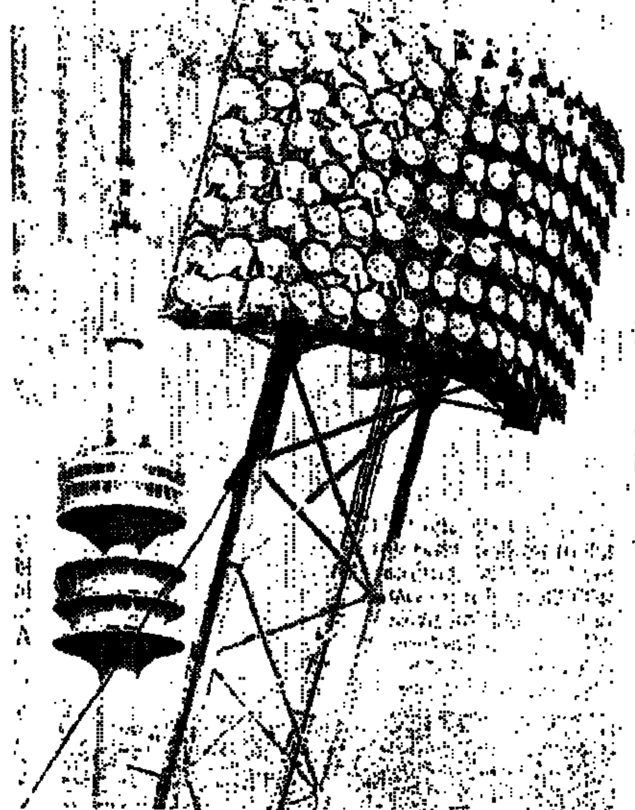
The conference was opened by biochemists and ballistics specialists. The response to their papers varied. There would seem to be a very real danger of research for its own sake, not to mention the temptation to use esoteric terminology that serves to handicap practical use of results.

Biomechanics, endurance, strength, health hazards and the psychology of competitive sport were the topics discussed, undoubtedly too wide a range. But then, to quote Dr Herbert Reindell, at the top in sport today the individual athlete is subjected to a tensile test and every property of mind and body taken to breaking-point.

In the understandable search for ways of further boosting performance one final point became particularly apparent. Sporting achievements are accomplished by human beings, not by scientific method.

Bodo Schmidt

(Die Zeit, 7 January 1972)



Lighting the scene

Five hundred and fifty specially developed Siemens floodlights will illuminate Munich's Olympic stadium later this year. This is one of the two masts carrying a cluster of 144 floodlights each. A new ignition device has also been developed to relight the hot 'spots' immediately in the event of a power cut. (Photo: Siemens)

Trimmy's popularity continues

For nearly two years now Trimmy, the cheerful cartoon figure advertising the Sports League's nation-wide keep fit campaign, has beamed at the general public from the billhoardings, urging people to try their hand at the odd game of football, to go dancing, to try gymnastics and to go for a run.

Trimmy is a goldmine of good ideas and has far outstripped long-maned pop singers, their graceful female counterparts, astute Ministers, football stars and other idols of their ilk in popularity with the general public.

Many people may feel that this is a development to be welcomed but Trimmy is more than a mere popularity rating. It would be interesting to know what kind of people fall for his charms.

With this aim in mind the Federal Republic Sports League, organisers of the keep fit campaign, has commissioned a survey from a leading market research institute.

The opinion pollsters are only just starting work but one conclusion they will reach as to the audience Trimmy has spellbound is already apparent and will no doubt come as a surprise, particularly to those whose misgivings about the entire campaign have still not entirely been dispelled.

One of the objections raised has been that Trimmy will only appeal to people who are already members of sports clubs of one kind or another. This has proved untrue. Of some 18,000 people taking part in 79 swimming competitions organised as part of the keep fit campaign 61.8 per cent were not already members of a club.

Fifty-eight per cent of the 18,000, by the way, were aged eighteen or under, the remaining 42 per cent of course being adults.

Evaluation of 403 sections of the campaign has produced comparable ratios. In a further category, the keep fit spiral (a progressive but far from intolerably demanding training schedule), 240 men and 163 women made the grade.

Of the 403 only 180 already belonged to sports clubs (143 full and 37 non-playing members). The overwhelming majority, 229 men, women and children, has no club affiliations and presumably did not engage in any kind of regular sporting activity.

The most popular disciplines incidentally have been swimming, cycling, hiking and walking, followed by running, gymnastics and football.

The keep fit spiral was hard work, 77 of those questioned commented, while 339 claimed that it had not proved too much of a sweat. Yet most took between five weeks and three months to fill in all 100 blanks in the spiral on the printed sheet on which competitors entered their results.

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 3 January 1972)

Aden	SA $ 0.05
Afghanistan	Af 10.—
Algeria	DA 0.60
Angola	Esc. 1.—
Argentina	$ m n 45.—
Australia	10 c.
Austria	S 8.—
Belgium	bfr 8.—
Bolivia	$ b 1.50
Brazil	N. Cr. $ 0.35
Bulgaria	Lev 0.05
Burma	K 0.60
Burundi	F. Bu. 10.—
Cambodia	R 4.40
Cameroun	F.C.F.A 30.—
Canada	Can. $ —.20
Ceylon	cR —.60
Chile	Esc. 0.60
Colombia	col. $ 1.—
Congo (Brazzaville)	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Congo (Kinshasa)	Makuta 7.—
Costa Rica	C 0.85
Cuba	P 0.13
Cyprus	11 d
Czechoslovakia	Kcs 0.50
Dahomey	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Denmark	dkr 0.90
Dom. Rep.	RD $ 0.15
Ecuador	S 2.50
El Salvador	C 0.30
Ethiopia	Eth. $ 0.30
Fiji	11 d
Finland	fmk 0.50
Formosa	NT £ 5.—
France	FF 0.60
Gabon	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Gambia	11 d
Germany	DM 1.—
Ghana	cedi 0.12
Great Britain	5 p
Greece	Dr 4.—
Guatemala	Q 0.15
Guayana	BWI $ 0.20
Guinea	F.G. 30.—
Haiti	G 0.65
Honduras (Br.)	$ BH 0.20
Honduras	L 0.25
Hong Kong	HK $ 0.70
Hungary	Ft 1.—
Iceland	Kr 5.—
India	Rs 0.80
Indonesia	Rp. 15.—
Iran	Rl 10.—
Iraq	50 fils
Ireland	11 d
Israel	I £ 0.40
Italy	Lir. 80
Ivory Coast	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Jamaica	11 d
Japan	Yen 50
Jordan	50 fils
Kenya	EAs 0.25
Kuwait	50 fils
Laos	Kip 60.—
Lebanon	P 40.—
Liberia	Lib $ 0.15
Libya	60 Mills
Luxembourg	lfr 8
Madagascar	FM 30.—
Malawi	11 d
Malaysia	M. $ 0.40
Mali	FM 60.—
Mexico	$ 1.50
Morocco	DM —.65
Mozambique	Esc. 1.—
Nepal	Mohur 1.—
Netherlands	Hfl 0.60
Netherlands Antilles	G. ant 0.25
New Zealand	9 c.
Nicaragua	C 0.85
Niger	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Nigeria	11 d
Norway	nkr 0.90
Pakistan	Rs 0.60
Panama	B. 0.15
Paraguay	G. 15.—
Peru	S. 3.50
Philippines	P. phil 0.60
Poland	Zl. 0.50
Portugal	Esc. 1.—
Rhodesia	11 d
Ruanda	F. Rw 12.—
Rumania	Leu 0.50
Saudi Arabia	RL 0.60
Sweden	skr 0.60
Switzerland	FS 0.50
Senegal	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Sierra Leone	Le 0.10
Somalia	Sh So 0.90
South Africa	Rand 0.10
South Korea	Won 35.—
S. Viet Nam	V.N. $ 15.—
Spain	Pts 8.—
Sudan	PT 5.—
Syria	£ S 0.50
Tanzania	EAs 0.25
Thailand	B 3.—
Trinidad and Tobago	BWI $ 0.20
Togo	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Turkey	T £ 1.25
Tunisia	65 M
Uganda	EAs 0.25
UAR	PT 5.—
Uruguay	P 20.—
USA	$ 0.20
USSR	Rbl. 0.10
Venezuela	B 0.50
Yugoslavia	Din. 1.—
Zambia	11 d